ABB chief, 2 others nabbed at airport by Manila cops

Story on PAGE A5

HAPPY 178TH BIRTHDAY GREAT-GREAT GRANMA!
FEELING KO BAGETS PA AKO!

Who wants to live forever?

SAN FRANCISCO—Fancy living another 100 years or more?

Some experts said on Saturday that scientific advances would one

WHO WANTS/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Baguio dog wins award for heroism

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The INQUIRER story on Dagul, the dog whose warning barks saved his master from being swamped by a landslide, helped the 6-year-old mongrel become the September winner of the Elizabeth Lewyt Award for Heroic Compassionate Animals.

BAGUIO/ A21

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Monday, July 21, 2003 ★★★ 74 pages / 8 sections / vol. 18 / no. 223 P15 website: www.inq7.net

4 BIR, BOC officials fail lifestyle check

Mismatch in salary, wealth uncovered

By Clarissa S. Batino
Business

HOW could a government employee receiving a monthly salary of less than P25,000 own houses in posh subdivisions like Ayala Alabang, a fleet of expensive vehicles, several businesses, and millions of dollars in a bank account, not to mention memberships in golf clubs?

The mismatch between the salaries and assets of four officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs is so huge that the Department of Finance is filing today cases of graft and corruption against the public servants with the Office of the Ombudsman.

"The government has to have the moral ascendancy to go after taxpayers who cheat us of our much-needed revenues. We have to purge our ranks to restore credibility and faith in our institutions," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said in an interview.

After conducting lifestyle checks, the DOF's internal affairs unit, the Central Management Information Office (CMIO), has decided to lodge cases of unexplained wealth against BIR Assistant Commissioner Edwin Abella, Assistant Commissioner Percival

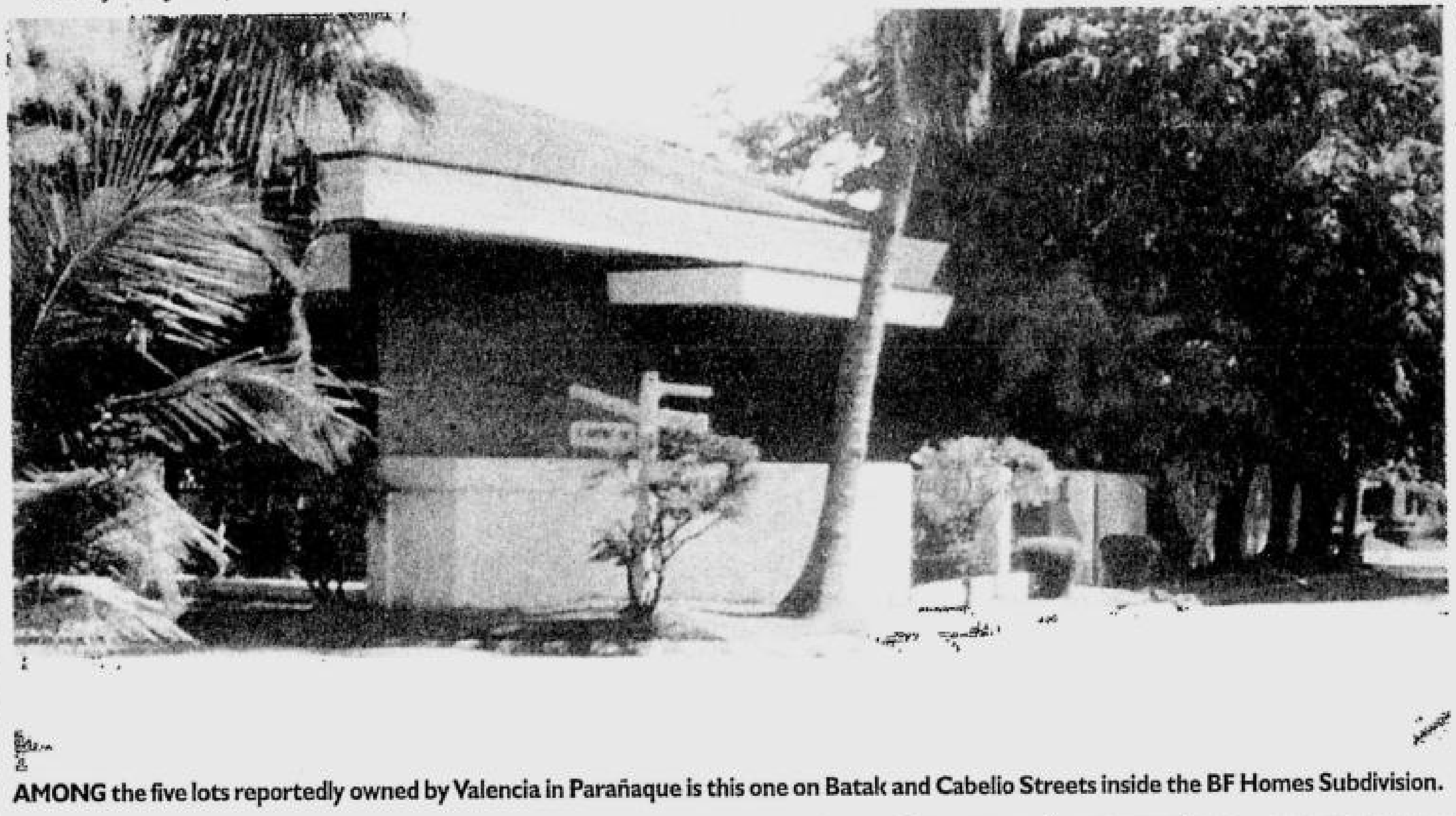
4 RICH/ A20

EDWIN ABELLA
BIR assistant commissioner
- Declared net worth: P8.5M
- Declared assets: Five subdivision lots in Novaliches, a cock farm in Bulacan, and another lot in Bulacan.
- Undeclared asset: P10-M property in Quezon City.
- Monthly salary: P24,817

PERCIVAL SALAZAR
BIR assistant commissioner
- Declared net worth: P3.8M
- Undeclared assets: Printing company which owns several pieces of property; also owns a big house and lot in Novaliches, Quezon City.
- Monthly salary: P22,716

LUCIEN SAYUNO
BIR regional director
- Declared net worth: P3.3M
- Undeclared assets: Three companies, a house and lot in Ayala Alabang, 12 luxury vehicles, membership in four golf and country clubs.
- Monthly salary: P22,521

MANUEL VALENCIA
Customs warehousing chief
- Declared net worth: P1.5M
- Undeclared assets: $3.8M (about P200M) in dollar account, five lots in Parañaque and a rice field in Cavite worth about P1.5M.
- Monthly salary: P21,217



AMONG the five lots reportedly owned by Valencia in Parañaque is this one on Batak and Cabelio Streets inside the BF Homes Subdivision.

Forfeiture cases filed vs Multitel, other firms

By Clarissa S. Batino and Christine O. Avendaño

THE ANTI-MONEY Laundering Council filed 17 forfeiture cases on Friday against the bank accounts of pyramiding firms before the Manila Regional Trial Court.

Among the accounts covered were those belonging to Multitel International Holdings Inc., Tibayan Group, TMG International Holdings Co., Glasgow Credit and Collection Services, G. Cosmos Philippines Inc. and affiliate firm Genta Universal Corp.

Included in the complaint filed against Multitel were owners Rosario and Saturnino Baladjay. Named respondents in the case against G. Cosmos were Anselma Calima, also known as Elizabeth Ogami, and Wilfredo Cunate.

The council, which is going after illegally acquired funds together with the Office of the Solicitor General, also sought a temporary restraining order to prevent account holders or their agents from touching the deposits in several accounts whose freeze orders are set to expire today.

It sought the forfeiture of deposits totaling P92.53 million contained in more than 100 frozen bank accounts.

The council and the OSG asked the courts to confiscate the funds in favor of the government.

Vicente Aquino, executive director of the council, however, said more forfeiture cases would be filed in the coming days.

As of July 15, the council had only frozen P1.082 billion in 448 bank accounts, mostly involving estafa and violations of the Securities Regulation Code. The amount is a drop in the bucket when compared with the more than P100 billion that the pyramiding schemes had collected.

The National Bureau of Investigation said some 1.5 million to 2 million Filipinos had fallen victim to the pyramid schemes, which were promoted as investments that promised quick profits.

FORFEITURE/ A19

Search on for Irene deposits

CONTINUE the quest.

Malacañang has ordered the Presidential Commission on Good Government to continue the search for the alleged $13.2-billion Swiss account of Irene Marcos-Araneta despite two years of fruitless effort.

In a radio interview with RMN, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said it was only proper to explore the possibility that the Swiss account existed.

"This allegation has long been made by Frank Chavez. We know Frank as somebody who does not make claims without any basis. It's very important that the PCGG gets in touch with the former solicitor general," Bunye said.

Chavez, who disclosed the existence of the account of the youngest child of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, had urged the government to pursue the hunt for the elusive Swiss account following the Supreme Court's decision awarding $682 million in Marcos' Swiss deposits to the government.

While PCGG Commissioner

SEARCH/ A19

Palace urged to discipline restive military officers

By Carlito Pablo *in Manila*
and Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE CHAIR of the House committee on national defense yesterday urged Malacañang to take "disciplinary measures" against restive military officers who have raised a number of issues outside the chain of command.

Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (Lakas, Surigao del Sur) said the disgruntled officers, who have circulated a manifesto complaining about low pay, graft in the Armed Forces, the lack of housing and the supposed micro-management style of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, were "causing public alarm."

But in Zamboanga City, Maj. Gen. Trifonio Salazar, chief of the 1st Infantry Division (Tabak), said soldiers under his command have not been affected by news reports about restive officers.

"I am satisfied with their commitment. They are excellent in executing their assignments and missions and if there was some dissatisfactions it may not really come from our own area of responsibility," Salazar told the INQUIRER.

"My soldiers and officers are in high morale," he added.

The group of complaining officers call themselves the Concerned Army Officers of Sulu, a province included in Salazar's area of responsibility.

Asked what disciplinary measures should be imposed, Pichay said: "At the very least, they should be reprimanded."

"With all the problems we have now, the least we need are these noises from the military which is supposed to be the bedrock of our national security," he said. "It's just proper that disciplinary measures are taken."

Pichay noted that as an institu-

PALACE/ A20

'I can't be forever labeled as the stupid guard of Al-Ghozi'

By Christian V. Esguerra

HIS dream of becoming a top-notch police intelligence officer may have ended with the escape of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi. Worse, it may have been unwittingly shattered by officials who facilitated the escape.

PO1 Ronald Palmares, 23, said he was planning to leave the service after he had disproved accusations that he had been sleeping on the job.

"What's the use in staying with a police force that allows terrorists to escape then assigns sacrificial lambs later?" he asked, in a mixture of English and Filipino, during an interview in Camp Crame yesterday.

I CAN'T/ A20

PALMARES: Out to clear his name.

PDI PHOTO

Police intelligence official linked to escape of Al-Ghozi, Abu men

By Christian V. Esguerra and Nelson F. Flores

WHO drove Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and company out of Camp Crame?

A source at the Philippine National Police Intelligence Group saw Supt. Reuben Galban in front of the IG's old building at the time of the escape a week ago, the INQUIRER has learned.

Galban, who was sacked as chief of the IG's Foreign Intelligence Liaison Office (Filo) because of the escape, was spotted on board a heavily tinted Toyota Revo parked in front of the gate at around 3 a.m. on July 14. The IG source has not yet reported the matter, but another Crame source, who also saw Galban, has already informed investigators.

Since Galban was ordered relieved on July 15, the INQUIRER has tried to reach him for comment, to no avail.

In Camp Aguinaldo, the Armed Forces spokesperson said the military intelligence agents who arrested Al-Ghozi have been assigned to go after him again.

The military intelligence team that conducted surveillance on Al-Ghozi leading to his capture in Manila in January 2002 has been recalled to help hunt him down again, Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said.

The team is familiar with Al-Ghozi and his contacts and could provide valuable assistance to the police who are searching for the Indonesian fugitive, the main bomb-maker of the Jemaah Islamiyah terror group.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina, the Cabinet official who oversees the Philippine National Police, said there were "indications that Al-Ghozi and his companions planned their es-

POLICE/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol, Samar and Leyte provinces will have rains and gusty winds with moderate to rough seas. Central and the rest of Southern Luzon, the rest of Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be cloudy to partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/07/21/03

Metro Manila	Cloudy with rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with rains
Baguio	Partly cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with rains
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with rains
Laoag	Partly cloudy	Tacloban	Rains and winds
Clark Zone	Cloudy with rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains
Legazpi	Rains and winds	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains
Calapan	Cloudy with rains	Davao	Cloudy with rains

MILF accuses military of breaking truce

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines—Muslim separatist guerrillas yesterday accused the military of violating a newly forged truce, when they seized weapons during a raid in Pagalungan town.

However, the military insisted the soldiers had seized the weapons in a clash with about 40 "cattle rustlers" on Saturday.

Eid Kabalu, spokesperson of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said he would file a complaint with the government peace panel and ask Malaysia, which is mediating the talks, to look into it.

Kabalu said soldiers, many wearing civilian clothes, had raided the isolated community.

"They searched the houses, mostly owned by MILF members, and seized anti-tank rockets and several munitions," Kabalu said, adding that MILF commander Tahir Magtanggol had just left the area when the raid started.

"We will file a protest," he said, but stressed this would not affect the resumption of the peace talks this month in Kuala Lumpur.

A military statement said troops, responding to local residents' complaints, had clashed with about 40 cattle rustlers led by Magtanggol, and seized two rocket launchers and several shells.

The statement made no mention of MILF involvement in the clash, or of any arrest or casualty.

Kabalu insisted there had been no clash.

The Philippine government and the MILF on Friday agreed to a ceasefire which would pave the way for the resumption of the negotiations, to be attended by MILF chief Salamat Hashim.

Mixed signals

Despite the truce, both sides have said they are on "active defense," and some government officials are uneasy about certain arrangements.

In Kidapawan City, a worried North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said yesterday nothing could justify the lifting of warrants of arrest against top MILF leaders in favor of the peace process.

Piñol issued the statement two days after the government announced the bilateral ceasefire and the lifting of the warrants.

"The ceasefire declaration is a welcome development, but the lifting of the warrants of arrest is something that I'm very wary of," Piñol said.

He recalled President Macapagal-Arroyo's announcement after the Korornadal City bombing that the war on terrorism would not be affected by the quest for peace in Mindanao.

Piñol warned: "The lifting of the warrants of arrest is contradicting that. We've been sending mixed signals."

He maintained that the warrants should have been lifted only if the MILF had asked for it in court. As it was, he said, the warrants were "trashed" without even a request, and this was tantamount to "railroading a judicial process in the name of peace."

This could have a "serious implication" on the justice system and put the country in a bad light with regard to its participation in the global war against terrorism, he said.

Proof of sincerity

Piñol believed the government's reputation had suffered enough, especially with the recent escape of Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi.

Ms Macapagal should have followed the preconditions it set before agreeing to the ceasefire, he said. Among these preconditions was for the MILF to surrender the culprits in the bombings in Davao City and Koronadal City, and the attack in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte.

But the governor said his greatest concern was, that "no amount of peace process can actually change" the MILF's intention, which was "to establish an independent Islamic state. "If the government will not grant (this) . . . peace and order will remain Mindanao's primary problem," he said. *Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and AFP*

Hunt for Al-Ghozi turns up bomb materiel

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SAN JUAN, Batangas—A police operation intended to recapture fugitive Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and two other escapees led to the confiscation of 160 sacks of prohibited chemicals used to manufacture explosives.

Seven men were arrested in two separate incidents in Barangay Tipas over the weekend.

Batangas police director Rodolfo Magtibay said San Juan police received an intelligence report that truckloads of ammonium nitrate, the main ingredient in producing bombs, were to be transported to southern Luzon via the Batangas port.

Magtibay said the town police coordinated with Chief Insp. Aniceto Malapitan of the 401st Police Maritime Group in Batangas City, in looking out for suspicious cargo trucks.

About 2 p.m. on Saturday, Malapitan's team inspected an Isuzu Elf at a checkpoint. Driver Ramon Tagumon said the truck was carrying animal feeds bound for Paracale, Camarines Norte.

Police found the chemicals in the animal feed sacks. They arrested Tagumon and helpers Edwin Gomez, Romeo Banal and Wendel Eleimos, after the four failed to present a permit to transport the cargo.

During interrogation, the men said a certain Romeo Chuatingco, allegedly an Army captain, owned the shipment, and they were moving it from a warehouse in nearby Taysan town.

"Tagumon said the chemicals were used to make fertilizer," Malapitan said.

The suspects said another shipment was being moved later in the day.

About 1 a.m. Sunday, exactly 11 hours after the first incident, checkpoint police blocked a Fuzo six-wheeler loaded with fish, vegetables and hardware materials.

Driver Bocalan Gabiosa, 32, looked nervous, Malapitan said. Police found 100 sacks of ammonium nitrate, also in animal feed packaging, with the other goods.

Police arrested Gabiosa and helpers Alden Morello and Crispin de Asis. They also failed to produce the appropriate permit.

The suspects pointed to one Alex Valentin as the owner of the shipment, and said the chemicals were bound for a mango plantation in Allen, Samar from a warehouse also in Taysan.

Magtibay said the factory in Taysan licensed to produce ammonium nitrate denied having sent out the shipments.

"Our initial investigation showed the group transports (chemicals) to Mindanao," Malapitan said. "We are verifying reports (that they) belong to local terrorist organizations." *With Nelson Flores and AFP*

Peace talks with Reds look 'bright'

AS THE government gears up for the resumption of talks with Muslim separatist rebels, prospects are also looking bright for peace negotiations with the communist-led National Democratic Front.

Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday said peace talks with the NDF will "definitely resume" in Oslo, Norway at the end of August.

De Venecia made the announcement, following his meeting with Norwegian Ambassador Paul Moe on Sunday.

De Venecia had earlier said talks with the NDF would be restarted this month, but he noted in his statement yesterday that "most of Europe's parliamentary leaders are on vacation at this time." *Carlito Pablo*

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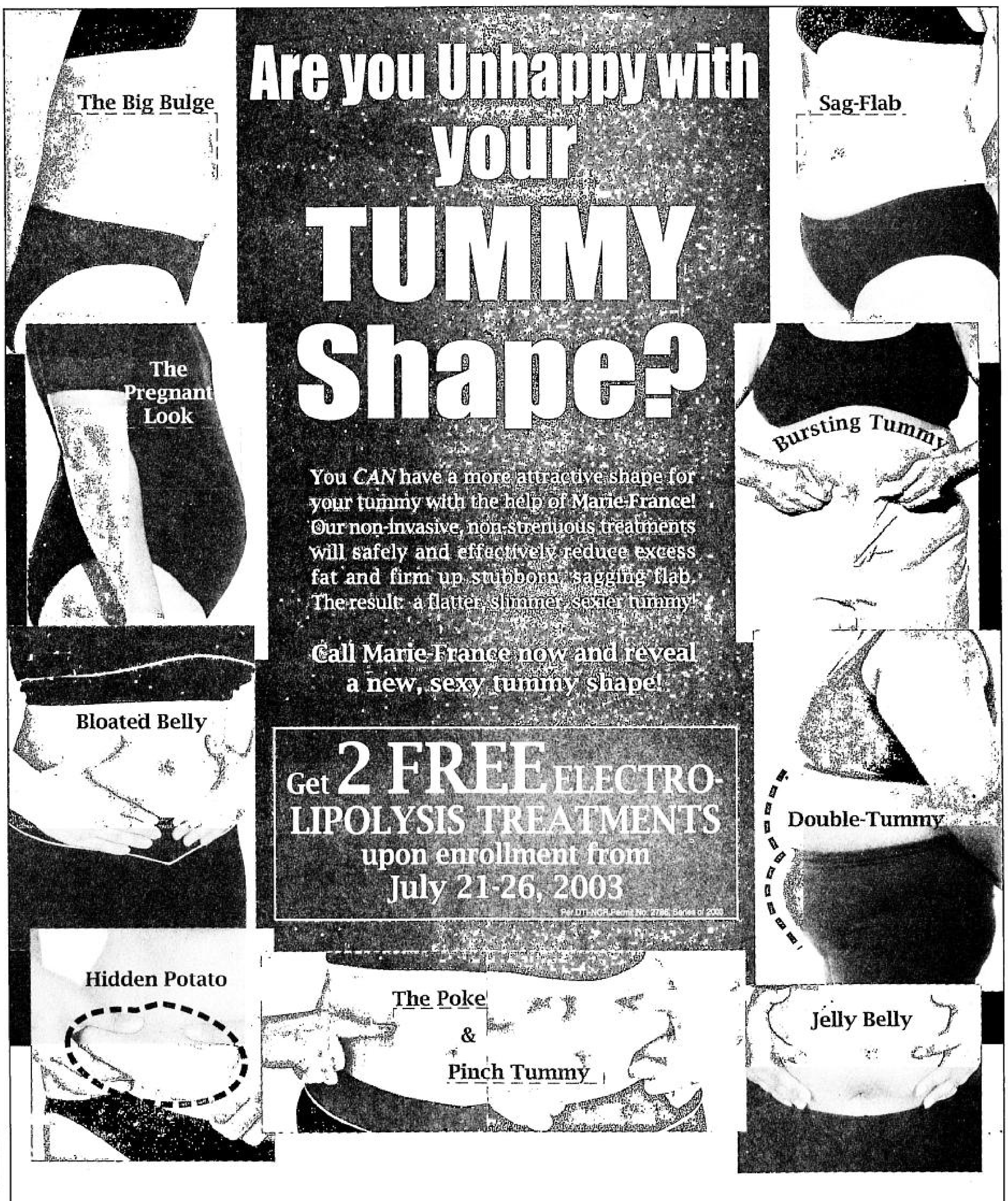

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De Venecia post safe–Palace

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.
and Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG is confident House Speaker Jose de Venecia would keep his post despite widening cracks in the administration coalition, which includes the ruling Lakas party and the Nationalist People's Coalition chaired by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

Cojuangco has made known his interest in running for President in 2004, and De Venecia has said he is inclined to support him although he co-chairs Lakas with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Malacañang was also accused of being behind the string of legal cases decided or filed last week against potential candidates for President like Cojuangco and former Senator Raul Roco.

In a radio interview with RMN, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said: "Our assessment is De Venecia's position as speaker would remain stable."

De Venecia had been elected speaker largely because of the alliance between Lakas and the NPC in the House of Representatives.

De Venecia explained that the Lakas-NPC alliance in the House counts a total of 150 members—96 for Lakas and 54 for NPC. To change the House leadership would require 115 votes from the 225 congressmen, and De Venecia said this was unlikely because the alliance remained strong.

And to prove he was still in charge, De Venecia has refused to throw in the towel as far as amending the 1987 Constitution through a constituent assembly is concerned.

After losing a significant round to the Senate committee on Constitutional amendments, which voted 6-3-2 in favor of a Constitutional convention to make changes in the Charter, congressmen led by De Venecia will be be pushing for a constituent assembly before the House-Senate bicameral conference committee.

Often referred to as the "third chamber," the bicameral conference committee, where select representatives of the two chambers meet to reconcile conflicting versions of proposed legislation, may still uphold the proposal for a constituent assembly, De Venecia said.

"An amendment can be made" on the floor, when the debates start at the Senate plenary, he said.

"We are hopeful that House Concurrent Resolution 16 would be adopted by the Senate once the matter is debated and put to a vote," he added.

De Venecia said earlier nine senators had promised to support a constituent assembly which had been passed by the House in Concurrent Resolution 16.

The proposal needs a majority of 12 votes from the 22 senators, and De Venecia said he was confident the proponents of a constituent assembly would get three more votes on the Senate floor.

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RP offers to host meet on Korean Peninsula crisis

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE PHILIPPINES plans to host a regional forum to discuss ways to achieve a diplomatic solution to the crisis in the Korean Peninsula, Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople said before the weekend.

North and South Korean troops exchanged gunfire across the Demilitarized Zone, the world's last Cold War frontier last Thursday. The South reported no injuries among its soldiers, and it was not immediately known if the North suffered any casualty.

Ople said President Macapal-Arroyo discussed the holding of such a forum with Australian Prime Minister John Howard, when the latter visited Manila last week.

"We welcome the support of other countries in organizing this informal meeting and would be open to co-hosting the event in Manila," Ople said.

Although official talks to defuse the crisis in the Korean peninsula are continuing, Ople said "it is time for us to discuss this issue in an informal forum."

The crisis has become a major concern not only in the region but also worldwide as the communist North Korean regime has admitted it was developing nuclear weapons.

Ople welcomed recent reports that China had some success in encouraging North Korea to engage in multilateral talks to address the situation on the peninsula.

Solons rap SSS premium increase

TWO SENATORS yesterday crossed party lines to oppose the plan of the Social Security Service to increase the monthly contributions of some 23 million members, and called on the agency to look for other measures to improve its financial condition.

"SSS members deserve an explanation for the planned increase in their monthly contribution," administration Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate finance committee, said in a statement. "They also need to see how they will benefit from the increase."

Opposition Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta urged Malacañang to "slam the brakes" on the SSS plan to increase members' monthly premiums as this comes at a time when, she said, the public is stretching household budgets to meet school expenses and increased power and water rates. *Christine O. Avendaño*

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ABB chieftain, 2 others nabbed by Manila cops

NILO de la Cruz, chief negotiator of the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino-Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPMP-RPA-ABB) was arrested yesterday with two companions at the Centennial Airport Terminal in Pasay City.

De la Cruz, with his son Lejun, party deputy secretary general, and Arnold Salazar, a party member, had just gotten off a flight from Kalibo, Aklan, at around 5:40 p.m. and were waiting for their ride home when plainclothesmen of the Western Police District-Intelligence and Investigation Division approached and asked them to come with them.

De la Cruz's wife Gina said the three had come from a conference with party members where they discussed the status of the peace negotiations with the government. The RPMP-RPA-ABB is a breakaway group of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

"They (agents) did not identify themselves and did not tell us why they were arresting my husband," a teary-eyed Gina told the INQUIRER.

"This is a plain case of warrantless arrest. They (De la Cruz and company) even had safe conduct passes with them," said Romeo Dolletor, De la Cruz's lawyer.

Since they were not told what the charges were against them, De la Cruz and his companions resisted arrest, until around six men subdued each of them, according to Gina.

Gina said one of the agents had a high-powered gun.

She said the three were transported to Western Police District headquarters in Manila in owner-type jeeps. *Tarra Quismundo and Margaux C. Ortiz*

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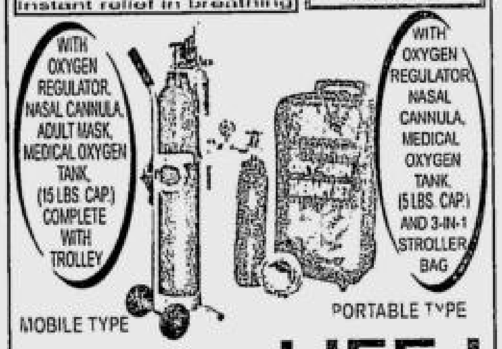
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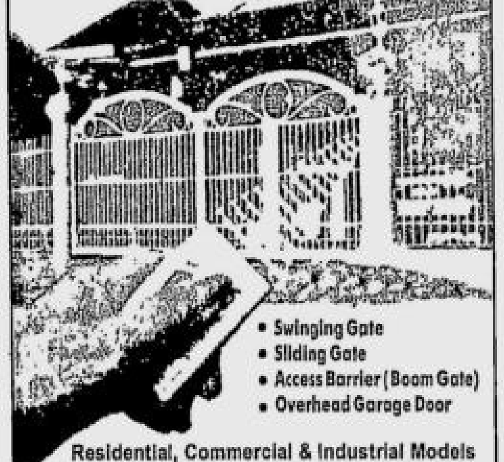
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Academy aims to keep RP seamen on top

By Volt Contreras

MARIVELES, Bataan—Filipino seafarers may still be the biggest ethnic group servicing international fleets, but they are coming under threat by other nationalities willing to work for lower pay.

Yet for the founders of an elite-merchant marine school here, the Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP), the threat should be faced not by accepting lower wages but by producing more competent professionals.

Shipping firms would eventually realize that, "if you pay peanuts, you'll get monkeys," said Capt. Gregorio Oca, chair of the board of the 5-year-old academy.

"That's why we have to keep our competence high, since shipping lines are always willing to pay more [for better quality graduates]," said MAAP president, retired Vice Admiral Eduardo Santos.

Ranked by the UN International Maritime Organization as one of the top five maritime schools in the world, the MAAP graduated its first batch of 127 students last Saturday, with President Macapagal-Arroyo as special guest.

That they were trained not to settle for "peanuts" had visibly raised the morale of top MAAP graduates like Deck Midshipman Bruno Buenaflor III.

They were told, for example, Buenaflor said, that Chinese seamen agree to work for $500 to $600 monthly, or about half what Filipinos of equal rank are currently getting.

"But in the end, managers (who hire other nationalities) pay more because their crews cannot run or fix certain machines," Buenaflor said.

Santos said Filipino seafarers still have an edge because of their proficiency in English, but the Chinese are closing in by hiring foreign language teachers.

Data gathered by the INQUIRER showed that employed Filipino seafarers, numbering around 200,000, make up 20 percent of the world total.

In 1999 and 2000, however, local recruiting agencies reported losing 6,300 slots for deck and engine room crewmen to Chinese, other Asian and Eastern European sailors who accepted lower pay.

But as Oca and Santos observed, the shipping firms are learning their lesson.

Arnold Amador, MAAP Class '03's most bemedaled cadet and lone cum laude, recalled that during the course, "we were told in our first two years how more Chinese were being hired. But by our third year, the shipping companies were again preferring Filipinos for our being *ma-diskarte* (very capable)."

Diploma mill

With MAAP's first batch of graduates, Oca said he also wants to erase the perception the Philippines had become a "diploma mill" for seafarers, what with its sheer number of merchant marine schools.

Oca and Santos conceded, though, that there was some truth to the tag. One school, for example, produces "2,000 graduates a year," Oca said.

Santos added that of the 27,000 maritime graduates churned out by local schools nationwide, "only about 2,000 pass the licensure exams while only half of that get jobs."

The 75,000-strong Associated Marine Officers and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (Amosup), of which Oca is also president, established the MAAP in 1998 from the union's own funds and without government support.

Its school building and training grounds on 11 hectares at Kamaya Point, Barangay Alasasin here, used to be a resort hotel overlooking Corregidor Island.

MAAP boasts of its own training ship, multi-media classrooms and other cutting-edge training facilities not found even in most First World academies.

MAAP's curriculum was designed by the US Merchant Marine Academy at King's Point, New York. While it's run like a military school with an "English only" policy, it bans hazing and promotes values formation among its students, Santos said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, July 21, 2003
16th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Ex 14:5-18
Gospel:	Mt 12:38-42

Some teachers of the Law and some Pharisees spoke up, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you." Jesus answered them, "An evil and unfaithful people want a sign, but no sign will be given them except the sign of the prophet Jonah. In the same way that Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of the monster fish, so will the Son of Man spend three days and three nights in the depths of the earth.

"At the judgment, the people of Niniveh will rise with this generation and condemn it, because they reformed their lives at the preaching of Jonah, and here there is greater than Jonah. At the judgment, the Queen of the South will stand up and condemn you. She came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and here there is greater than Solomon."

Commentary

What was wrong with asking for a sign? In this regard what the Scribes and Pharisees were asking of Jesus was actually not something out of the ordinary. What then was wrong with their request? Why did Jesus find offense at it? The real problem with the Scribes and the Pharisees was not so much their request for a sign, but the reason behind their request. They looked for signs not because they wanted to believe in him, but in order to further their disbelief. They had already made up their minds that they would be 'blind' to whatever goodness Jesus might show them. No wonder then that he refused to give them a sign. We, too, can be blind on many occasions. We have gotten so used to seeing him in people, places, and events that fit our liking. And so we fail to recognize that he is just as present in those persons, places and circumstances where we least expect to find him: in the poor, the needy, the difficult and even tragic situations of our lives, in those persons we dislike and in those who seem not to like us. They, too, are images of Christ; in them too, God is found. Are we to be as blind as the Scribes and Pharisees, refusing to see Jesus right in front of us?

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'True love waits,' bishops advise parents to tell sexually active kids

By Jerome Aning

INSTEAD of "Don't forget to use a condom," parents should tell their teenage children going out on dates that "true love waits."

This was the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' (CBCP) reaction to a recent study conducted by the University of the Philippines Population Institute (UPPI) that revealed shocking statistics on the sexual behavior of young Filipinos.

"The CBCP urges values formation on the meaning of sexuality, marriage and family for today's youth," said Msgr. Hernando Coronel, CBCP spokesperson. "The UP study is a challenge to impart Christian and human morals in the home and in the school,"

The UPPI surveyed 20,000 adolescents (aged 15-24) nationwide. The results showed that 23 percent had engaged in premarital sex, many with a partner belonging to the same sex.

"If indeed premarital sex is on the rise," Coronel said, "others (may) advocate condoms and contraceptives to prevent teenage pregnancy. We advocate seeing the proper context of sexuality and seeing its beauty in marriage."

The CBCP said people should be shocked and enraged by the results of the study.

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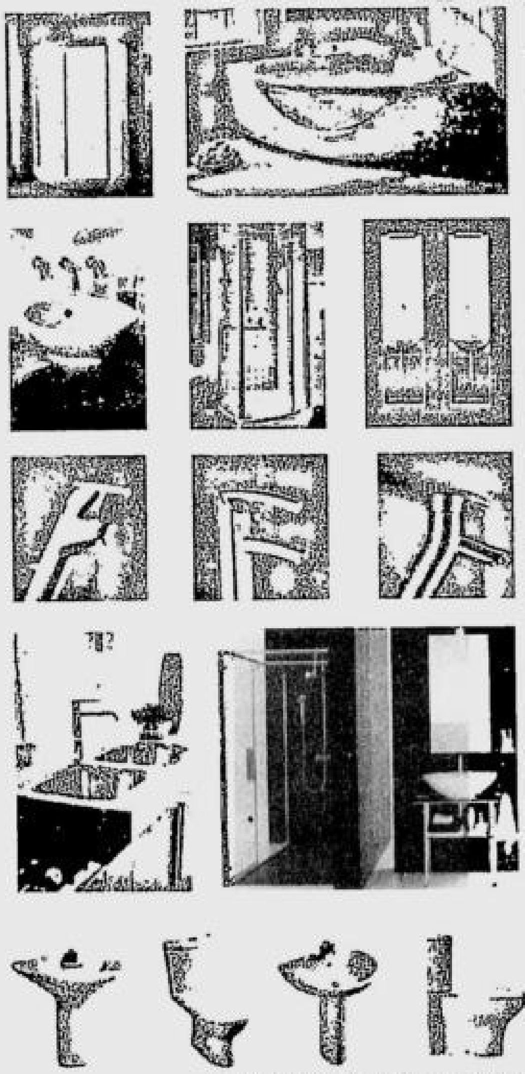

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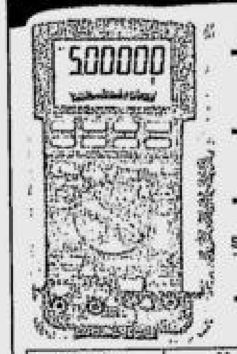

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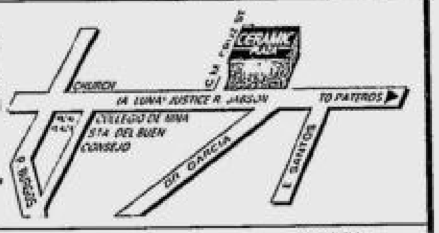

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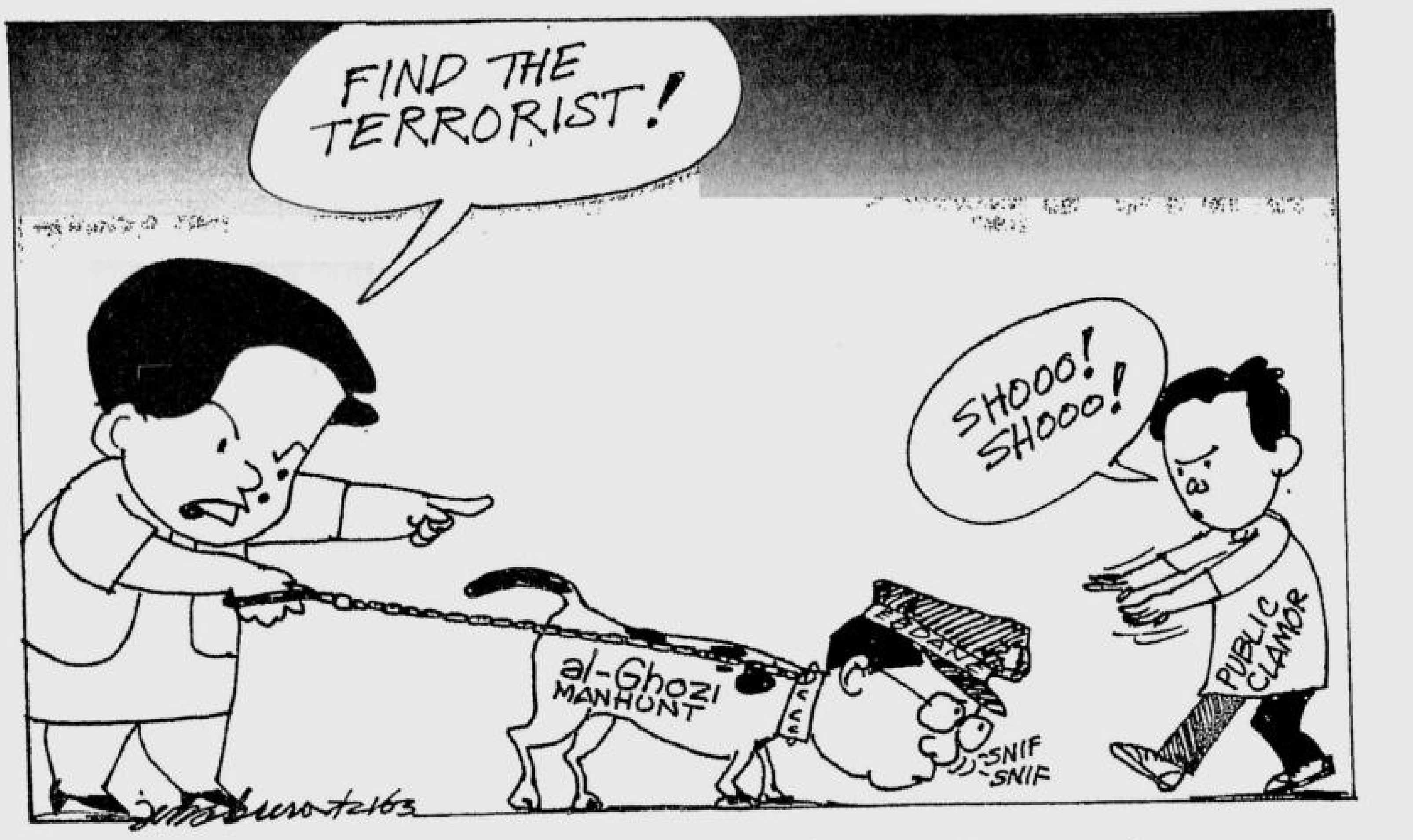

EDITORIALS

New gobbledygook

SEN. Rodolfo Biazon has endeared himself to the nation on at least two historic occasions. In 1989, as a Marine general fighting off mutinous Marines, he shed tears on public TV—dramatizing the inner conflict rending the military. In 2001, he summarized the public frustration with obfuscatory legal maneuvers in the impeachment trial of President Joseph Estrada when he memorably denounced "legal gobbledygook."

Over the weekend, however, Biazon has taken a position regarding the case of restive military officers that can only be described as political gobbledygook, a position that has occasioned much head-shaking, if not (yet) outright tears.

After news of disgruntled junior officers—reportedly comprised mainly of members of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1994 and 1995—broke on the front page, Biazon immediately issued a pronouncement.

Biazon, chief of staff of the Armed Forces for a few months during the Aquino administration, said he too had heard "rumors" about the restive officers in the preceding two weeks, and urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to address their "old" but "valid" grievances.

The issues roiling the young officers from the Army and the Marine Corps, many of whom serve in the field, in Basilan and Sulu, include low pay, corrupt senior officers, stalled promotions—and the continued use by retired generals of the Jusmag military housing area in Fort Bonifacio.

Last Friday, Biazon reminded the public that the Reform the Armed Forces Movement led by ex-renegade colonel and now-Sen. Gregorio Honasan had aired similar grievances, before it launched destructive coup attempts in the late 1980s.

That Biazon has instinctively taken up the cudgels for the young officers is not unexpected. He keeps himself abreast of developments in the military service, and looks upon the hundreds of thousands of soldiers and their families as a natural constituency. But his coming reelection bid in the May 2004 elections has clouded his historical memory (to be sure, an underdeveloped faculty in most politicians).

He sees the parallelism between the grievances of the 1980s and those of today—and leaves it at that. While he qualifies his position by saying he does not see the restiveness as a national security threat yet, he has asked the President to take urgent action precisely because coup attempts may once again become a threat on the horizon.

Biazon has forgotten, however, that RAM's grievances were raised against a stark background: a politicized military.

When the dictator Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in 1972, he began the corruption of the country's military culture. While continuing to pay lip service to the principle of civilian supremacy, Marcos effectively turned the officer corps into a political class. Ten years after martial rule was imposed, elite soldiers like Honasan thought political action by military leaders was the most natural thing in the world.

But old bogeys

MUCH, happily, has changed since then. The armed services have been purged of the virus of military adventurism, not least through such measures as the fact-finding work of the Davide Commission. And in the last 17 years, the military has redeemed itself as a public institution worthy of public trust not once but twice: in the first flourish of People Power in 1986, and in the second flowering in 2001.

Thus: The grievances raised by the disgruntled officers are valid and must be answered specifically and speedily. But to compare this year's restive classes with the politicized officers of the Marcos era, as Sen. Rodolfo Biazon has done, is to insult those who serve today. They do not see themselves as a political class; military adventurism is not in their blood.

Put it this way. The officers' grievances are valid even if the Reform the Armed Forces Movement bogey isn't raised, so why is Biazon scaring up the ghost of coups past? Publicity, of course. He is running for reelection.

Why the RP-US air talks collapsed

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

AFTER ONLY two days, the second round of aviation talks between the Philippines and the United States at the Hyatt Regency collapsed. The United States didn't want to continue the talks after the Philippine panel rejected its demand for seventh freedom rights for cargo carriers. Seventh freedom gives US carriers the privilege of using Philippine territory as a base to operate cargo flights to and from neighboring Asian countries as if the Philippines is part of the United States' own territory. It also means that US cargo carriers would fly to other counties as if they were Philippine carriers, since they are based here.

What will happen after the collapse of the talks? It means that the "open skies" policy embodied in the RP-US air transport agreement (ATA) will take effect on Oct. 1, this year. The agreement was concluded in 1982 but implementation was deferred until this October. It means US airlines can fly here as often, with as many passengers and to any destination as they like. The new round of air talks was to consider the RP proposal to defer implementation for another 15 years.

The US panel obviously thought they have us by the ba—, and that it would not lose anything if the talks collapse because that would mean the "open skies" policy would finally be implemented. So as a counter-proposal to another deferment, it wanted the seventh freedom rights for cargo carriers.

The RP panel couldn't agree however, because the seventh freedom right to US carriers would violate the Philippine Constitution which requires that the operation of public utilities (which cargo flights are) in the county to be limited to Filipino nationals under a 60 percent-40 percent majority ownership ratio.

But the Americans did not take the RP panel's word and asked its local embassy to verify the constitutional provision, according to a member of the Philippine panel. "Still smarting, the US panel kept insisting on a categorical grant of seventh freedom rights," the panel member recounted. In short, the US panel wanted its Philippine counterparts to openly violate our Constitution, which would make them liable for charges of treason.

But when the Filipinos requested the Americans for a similar concession—to consider granting Philippine carriers the right to operate domestic flights in selected US sectors (Guam-Hawaii, for example)—the United States was quick to dismiss this as non-negotiable, as it would "violate their laws."

Perhaps, the United States thought we would be forced to give in, thinking we are so afraid of "open skies" that we would agree to anything in exchange for its deferment.

However, Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople said that "open skies" will have "no adverse impact for us." If any, the impact will be minimal, he said, because even though the current limit to US carriers is 36 flights weekly, Northwest Airlines uses only 14 and Continental Airlines only 11 flights a week, or only 25 out of their 36 entitled flights. Because of the depressed travel market, US carriers are currently not in a position to utilize any additional entitlements.

Besides, we can still renegotiate for a deferment even after Oct. 1, Ople said, expressing hope that negotiations will resume and an agreement concluded before the open skies policy begins to actually have adverse effects on our interests.

Continuing with his recounting of the collapsed air talks, the RP panel member said that despite the constitutional barrier, the RP panel went out of its way to look for creative solutions to the impasse. It proposed a joint operation between RP and US cargo carriers, with the seventh freedom question dealt with in a side agreement between the airlines.

But the US side, particularly the cargo carriers, would have none of the very reasonable compromise, our source said. "The Americans were adamant that the grant of seventh freedom rights be enshrined in the air services treaty itself—a humiliating surrender by the Philippines of its national patrimony and an outright repudiation of its fundamental law." This, the RP panel firmly rejected.

Rebuffed on the seventh freedom issue, the Americans refused to even touch on the other, equally important issues. The talks quickly ended in deadlock.

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Today's topic at the Kapihan sa Manila (Hotel) breakfast forum are the court decisions on the coco levy funds and the Marcos ill-gotten wealth cases. Invited are San Miguel chief Danding Cojuangco, former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and Marcos lawyer Roberto Sison for the defendants. For the government are commissioners of the Presidential Commission on Good Government and Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan of the Department of Agrarian Reform, beneficiary of the recovered funds.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE:

A father and his daughter were in a church along with many others. By way of conversation, the father asked:

"*Anak, mabait ba ang* boyfriend *mo?*"

"*Opo naman*, Dad," the daughter replied.

"*Maka-Diyos ba?*"

"*Sobra po*, Dad. *Narito nga siya ngayon.*"

"*Nasaan?*" the father asked, looking around.

She replied, pointing: "*Ayun po, o, nagsesermon.*"

Two things

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I JOIN the chorus in lauding the Supreme Court's decision seizing from the Marcoses their $682 million in Swiss deposits which have been held in escrow. The Supreme Court rightly says that "it has been a charade from beginning to end." It has. Even if the money came from the fabled Yamashita treasure, that isn't Marcos' anyway, that is the Filipino people's. Ferdinand Marcos could not have gotten a tenth of $682 million even if he had practiced his region's legendary frugality since he first drew an income.

I remember that many years ago, he was awarded retirement benefits by the GSIS for all the years that he served with the government. I do not now recall the amount, I recall it reached up to a few millions. It was as monumental an irony as ever visited these benighted islands. That is all the well-gotten wealth his heirs should possess now, plus interest if they deposited it in the banks. I remembered that I protested the computation made by the GSIS. I said the coverage of the retirement benefits should have been the years since Marcos first served public office only until 1973 when his second term as president ended. After that he was no longer serving public office, he was usurping it. He should not have been getting benefits added to his name, he should have been getting benefits subtracted from his name. For all the years that he ruled illegally, which were the years of martial law.

PCGG commissioner Ruben Carranza is right when he says, "This is not politics, this is justice."

I have only two things to add to this.

First is the need to prosecute the crooks. Shortly after the Sandiganbayan ruling, Estelito Mendoza, Cojuangco's lawyer, stepped out to say that none of it made his client criminally liable. "This has nothing to do with any criminal liability. It has absolutely no connection to any criminal indictment." Well, if I remember right, Mendoza was Marcos' solicitor general at one point and Erap's chief defense lawyer in the impeachment trial at another point. In the latter capacity, he began his defense by telling a homespun personal story, the lesson of the story being that if you lie once, you will never be believed again. He meant to indict Chavit Singson with it, but clearly the indictment applied to him more than to anybody else. You lie to defend Marcos and Erap, you won't be believed ever again.

But quite apart from his lack of credibility, why so? Why shouldn't the Sandiganbayan ruling not naturally imply the criminal prosecution of Cojuangco? The basis of the Sandiganbayan ruling was that the money Cojuangco put in UCPB wasn't his, it was the coconut farmers'. Since the coconut farmers did not entrust it to him willingly, then he took it by force, or by subterfuge. Simply put, he stole it. Public officials who steal deserve to be haled to court. There is no getting around that principle, however hard you try.

The same thing applies to the Marcoses. The Supreme Court ruling that the Marcoses did not own the money they put in the Swiss bank presumes that they stole it. Though Ferdinand Marcos is dead, a suit can still be filed against his estate and the verdict of theft be made to hang upon it. His living heirs themselves ought to be haled to court to determine their levels of complicity.

That is the only way this whole deal can be made a matter of justice and not politics. At the very least, there is something detestable in the idea that public officials in this country can get off the hook simply by surrendering the loot they stole. Or worse, by being compelled to return it. What is this? OK *lang kung makalusot*? Can't blame a man for trying? The ends of justice are not served simply by ill-gotten wealth being recovered from the ill-gotters, they are served by the ill-gotters being put where they well belong, which is behind bars. That is what we have done to Erap, or at least are trying to do to him. Why can't we do the same thing to the Marcoses and Danding Cojuangco?

We do not demand the prosecution of past crooks, we encourage future crooks to do the same thing. The only thing they have to fear is having part of their loot taken away from them if discovered. That cannot possibly help to deter thievery.

The other point is to make sure the money goes to the people. I said this the last time I wrote about Cojuangco, but the point cannot be belabored. The Supreme Court has ruled that the Marcoses' $682 million in deposits belong to the government and not to the depositors. That is true in so far as the government represents the people. But in this country, that does not necessarily hold. In fact, it rarely does so. In this country, you say that something belongs to the government and the first thing that happens is that government officials stake a claim to it. Cory's term is proof of it. The PCGG did recover part of the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth only for Cory's relatives and friends to make it their own.

In this country, the more accurate way to put it is to say that the money belongs to the people, not to the government. There is a difference, as abundantly shown by our history. While at this, I can't imagine any better representative of the people here than the victims of martial law. We have no right to exist as a nation if we cannot owe a debt of gratitude to those who gave up life and limb to make this nation free. The torture victims did not just suffer most, they toiled most to make this country free. That is the reason they suffered most in the first place, because their good deeds did not go unpunished. Heaven forbid we fail to rectify that wrong.

Again, who cares that we recover ill-wealth if it just finds itself in GMA's ill-advised reelection project?

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Upsilon group should yield in UPAA

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PNP authorities should never have allowed that "reenactment" of the escape of terrorist bomber Fathur al-Ghozi and two companions from the PNP headquarters jail. Photos from the reenactment, showing people sleeping on tables, were telegraphed all around the world, highlighting the ineptness and shabbiness of our police. Two sentences were flashed with the photos: "In Manila's chief police jail one doesn't need a key to escape," and "former Abu Sayyaf militant kept as janitor."

* * *

PNP Chief Hermogenes Ebdane, a very decent man, has no choice but to resign in order to lessen the national shame, but Sen. Panfilo Lacson cannot gloat about it—as the Senate joint committee report on shady activities allegedly involving him and his officers narrate, the PNP has been a tarnished institution for some time now, and tarnished even more by Lacson's people. In the light of this incredible jailbreak, it behooves the PNP officers and rank and file to try to salvage their institution's honor. It can be done, but it needs a few dedicated officers and men who love the PNP. I know there are such people in the PNP.

* * *

Earlier I had written that the lamentable escape is crowding out, at least for the moment, the accomplishments of the PNP and major developments under the Macapagal administration. I sat down to jot down a few of those good developments. For one thing, President Macapagal-Arroyo's ratings have vastly improved after her US state visit. Then too, the government's anti-drug campaign is making important gains with the busting of shabu laboratories in various areas. There's also two recent landmark court decisions: the Supreme Court ruled to return the P31 billion of the Marcoses' Swiss deposits to the government, and the Sandiganbayan decision declared Eduardo Cojuangco's acquisition of 72.2 percent shares of United Coconut Planters Bank illegal and is turning it over to the government as representative of the coconut farmers.

* * *

What this means is that once these court rulings become final and executory after appeals are decided, more funds from the Marcos deposits would be released to push agrarian reform and more coco levy funds will help improve the lives and livelihood of millions of coconut farmers in 60 provinces, some of which have been NPA-infested over the years because of poverty. For a start, President Macapagal will make a swing deep into coconut heartland in Laguna and Quezon on Wednesday, July 23, to announce the various programs, such as micro-credit to farmers' wives, scholarships and technical training from her P700 million package derived from coco levy funds in the UCPB.

* * *

More administration gains: the government's budget deficit for last month and this month is the lowest since GMA assumed office; then too, the SWS survey from May 28-June 14 showing that poverty in this country dropped to its lowest in 16 years, and the number of households experiencing hunger remained low; moreover, 53 percent of those polled nationwide considered themselves poor, down from 59 percent last March.

In addition, a ceasefire recently took effect between the government and the MILF, and with MILF chair Salamat Hashim agreeing to head his panel, the possibility of peace talks between the government and the MILF resuming seems quite imminent, with the Malaysian government brokering it with support from the United States. US President Bush is expected to visit Manila this October, though GMA's political enemies are hoping he'd call it off because of Al-Ghozi's escape. But I think Bush needs GMA's support in the region that much.

* * *

Here's an update on the recent UP Alumni Association election that was keenly contested by the Upsilon-dominated lineup called GP 23, and a mixed professional group called GP 21. Despite the order of RTC Branch 222 under Judge Rogelio Pizarro for the UPAA comelec to conduct the final tally within five days, its chair, Victor Avecilla, an Upsilonian, defied it and instead filed a motion signed only by himself, to set the court order aside, claiming the court's lack of jurisdiction. By now it's obvious that this is another dilatory tactic of the UPAA comelec so as not to proclaim the winners.

Avecilla has questioned why the RTC still has not resolved the jurisdiction issue as raised by the Upsilon lineup, even when he's supposed to be "neutral." UP folks quip that obviously the UPAA comelec and the GP 23 become one and indistinguishable. Worse,, the comelec has resurrected the issue of disqualified voters after the GP 21, led by Nelia Gonzalez, emerged as winner of the election with a big 2,000 lead; but the fake voters' issue was already dismissed last June 9 in a resolution adopted by the comelec itself.

* * *

With all the bad publicity attending the UPAA elections, caused largely by the Upsilonians' refusal to yield power, they have sent feelers to the victors for a "power-sharing arrangement." Outgoing UPAA president Eddie Hernandez, an Upsilonian, was heard saying that his lineup's plan is to either carry on the battle in the courts, or settle it through "compromise." What Hernandez meant by "compromise" is still unclear, but the Upsilonians are hinting that a court settlement could take years and even eat up the whole three-year term of the winners. Gonzalez's group maintains, however, that the decisive mandate they got leaves no basis for sharing it with those who were not elected.

What's obvious is that the Upsilon-dominated lineup refuses to give up its stranglehold on the UPAA board, even for three years. What is so compelling that they are willing to tarnish the Upsilon name just to hang on to power? This is even worse than the national elections. I hope Upsilon elder alumni knock some sense into their colleagues' heads and ask them to yield.

Abbas to urge US to use influence on Israel

NEWS ANALYSIS

Chris Otton

'Israel has taken all the commitments and achievements of the Palestinians and given nothing back'

JERUSALEM—Embattled Palestinian prime minister Mahmud Abbas will look to the United States to use its influence to win significant concessions from Israel when he travels to Washington next week.

Abbas has come under increasing pressure over his failure to deliver so far, six weeks on from the launch of the "roadmap" for peace at a summit in Jordan also attended by Israeli premier Ariel Sharon and US President George W. Bush.

Israel has refused to sanction the release of the vast majority of the estimated 6,000 Palestinians in its prisons, Jewish settlement outposts have reemerged after a handful were dismantled in an initial blaze of publicity, and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat remains confined to his offices in Ramallah.

According to Diana Buttu, a legal adviser to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), anger is growing on the streets against Abbas and Washington must make Israel "hear the word stop" to prevent him from becoming a footnote in history.

"Israel has taken all the commitments and achievements of the Palestinians, put them in its pocket and given nothing back," she told AFP.

Buttu said that Washington was in a position to apply huge pressure on Israel as the country's main benefactor, in particular over settlement activity and the release of Palestinian prisoners.

"If Israel does not release the prisoners, people are going to look at the Palestinian Authority and say 'you have become the security sub-contractor' of Israel" and turn their backs for good on the moderate approach of Abbas.

The radical Palestinian groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad have already said that Abbas' trip to the United States is a mistake, and that any pledges of funds that are made while he is in Washington are unacceptable "bribes." Both organizations announced a three-month halt to anti-Israeli attacks late last month, but their patience has been sorely tested by Israel's refusal to so far release of any of its members from prison.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who will also be in Washington later this month, will meet Abbas early next week when he is expected to make a confidence-building gesture on the prisoners issue.

The announcement of Abbas' visit, which was made late Wednesday, took many by surprise as it was thought he was unlikely to travel to Washington while Arafat was effectively confined to Ramallah by the Israelis.

Senior Arafat adviser Ahmed Abdulrahman said that the veteran leader had approved the visit, but regarded it as a "decisive" test to see whether the United States was really prepared to exert influence on its chief regional ally.

"American efforts are very important and we hope from this visit to see serious American pressure on the Israeli government to completely implement the roadmap with withdrawals from Palestinian areas," he told AFP.

Otherwise "the roadmap will be like Tenet and Mitchell," two previous US blueprints to end Israeli-Palestinian violence which have bitten the dust.

Abbas will be accompanied on his July 25 trip by foreign minister Nabil Shaath, finance minister Salam Fayad and his security chief Mohammad Dahlan.

Dahlan's spokesperson, Elias Zananiri, said that the delegation would impress on the Bush administration that "the Palestinians are not happy with the pace with which the Israelis" are implementing the roadmap.

"Without having real change on the ground, it's very difficult for Abu Mazen and his government to function," he told AFP, using Abbas' nom de guerre.

"We are trying to persuade the Palestinian people that there's light at the end of the tunnel." The United States could use its influence to "switch it on," he added.

An editorial in Thursday's leading Israeli daily Haaretz said that Abbas' position and the truce were being jeopardized.

"The PA and its prime minister... cannot point to a single tangible achievement since the Aqaba summit" in Jordan on June 4, it said.

"Israel has an enormous interest in strengthening the ceasefire and especially Abbas' ability to rule. Foot-dragging on the prisoner releases, the suspension of the removal of outposts and a miserly approach to allowing freedom of movement are a guarantee of achieving the opposite result," the editorial warned. *AFP*

Terrorism 101 for Filipino skeptics

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

SOMETHING good may yet come from the embarrassing escape of the terrorist bomber, Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi—Filipinos may actually start to take terrorism seriously.

They may actually come to believe that terrorism does exist in their own country and that the American-led global war on terrorism deserves their full and active participation. For in the shock and dismay of the rest of the world, Filipinos now see themselves in the mirror of how gravely other nations take the terrorist threat. They see that others knew Al-Ghozi to be a major, flesh-and-blood player in the world of terrorism and that his escape is a real and present danger to everyone.

This is the convicted terrorist murderer of 22 innocent Filipinos during the Rizal Day 2000 bombing of the Manila LRT, done in the name of al-Qaida, Jemaah Islamiyah and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front—in retaliation for President Joseph Estrada's all-out war on the separatist rebels in the months previous—according to perpetrator Al-Ghozi.

In a rarity, I disagree with my neighbor Winnie Monsod, who last Saturday would not even call it an "escape"—preferring to castigate the corruption and "police culture" that probably played a big role. But was Al-Ghozi just "escorted out" and made to escape by the corrupt jail guards or generals? No, he actively plotted to escape. He studied and understood his Filipino captors, who had—please remember—successfully arrested him on Jan. 15, 2002, the highest-ranking member of JI under custody (on a tip from Singapore intelligence); found a ton of TNT on him ready for shipment to Singapore for truck bomb attacks on Western embassies; charged and convicted him of heinous crimes, before he escaped. He exploited their weaknesses and is now free to kill and maim again.

Witch-hunts make pretty bonfires of self-absolution, but they won't address the real problem. For there is smart-aleck skepticism over the very existence of terrorists operating in the Philippines. This skepticism is promoted by people who wish to portray the whole war on terrorism as some kind of American invention, a pogrom against Muslims that will result in new US bases here or some other hegemonistic advantage.

In other words, ideology and rhetoric purposely deployed, has prevented the formation of a strong political consensus among the people and their leaders to be in the war on terrorism in a really serious way, despite President Macapagal-Arroyo's support for the United States. Taunting, puerile criticism of her as a "*tuta ng Imperyalismong Kano*"—in cartoon and column—has been one of the big factors that the war on terrorism has gained only lukewarm support. The snickering punditry and the leftists have successfully portrayed terrorism as a myth. The Left's intent is to so discredit the war on terrorism that they can get the terrorist label lifted from the now euro-starved CPP/NPA and prevent it being put on their ally, the MILF.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona has certainly not helped, together with Senators like Nene Pimentel, Kiko Pangilinan, Manny Villar, Ralph Recto and Joker Arroyo. Credence is given to rhetoric that claims that it is the Philippine military and the police who are the real terrorists. If we keep listening to such people, the Philippines will be like Indonesia before the Bali bombing—in denial and vulnerable.

Instead of working on anti-terror legislation to deny terrorists sources of funding and support, erudite gentlemen in the Senate and House play lexical games with terms and do absolutely nothing but plot mutation for a Constitution that the Supreme Court has made a thing of scorn and dereliction of duty as it is.

For Filipino skeptics read the book "Inside Al Qaeda," by Prof. Rohan Gunaratna, University of St. Andrews Center for the Study of Terrorism & Political Violence, on "the first multinational terrorist organization." He traces the origins of al-Qaida and deals at length with Ramzi Youssef, who was actively planning and carrying out terrorist plots in the Philippines in the early '90s. An audio recording of his talk to the Commonwealth Club of California is fascinating. Listen to it at my website listed below.

The "peace talks" with the MILF bear close watching. Originally, the government demanded that the MILF first surrender the rampaging killers and kidnappers of Siocon and Koronadal City, before any peace talks. What ever happened to that? Also, since ABS-CBN TV and radio gives an open mike and fawning deference to MILF spokesman Eid Kabalu, our version of Iraq's Naji Al-Sabri ("We will cut them like snakes and burn them where they stand!")—has been busy proving to me that the MILF is committed to creating a waterworld Afghanistan in the border oceans and archipelagoes of Maphilindo. They are cynically buying time talking peace. They want to avert the terrorist label, while their "lost commands" continue to sow terror. It was not 10 days ago that three more innocents died at the hands of the MILF in a second bomb attack on Koronadal City, according to the military. What has changed since then?

I'm all for peace, but the road to it clearly runs through a resolute war on terrorism. There can be no peace unless the rebels stop bombing Filipinos to smithereens—Muslims, lumads and Christians. The peace talks better help, not hinder the war on terrorism, before our allies really lose confidence in us.

* * *

On the Web at http://deanjorgebocobo.blogspot.com

Conflict between news report and column

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

REPORTERS are required to be objective in writing news stories. They should refrain from injecting their personal thoughts or ideas in their reports.

Columnists, on the other hand, are supposed to give their comments on newsworthy events that are within their areas of expertise. They are expected to add substance and quality to news reports.

But sometimes the line that divides reporters and columnists gets blurred. Some reporters "editorialize" their reports, while there are columnists who enjoy playing the role reserved for reporters. Whether or not the assumption of dual personalities is deliberate is a big question mark.

The occasional merger of roles by reporters and columnists has caught the attention of a reader who lists his e-mail address as <pacorosmar@yahoo.com>. Once, he noticed an apparent conflict between a news item that came out on the front page of the INQUIRER and an article written by a political affairs columnist in the Opinion section. A political event with nationwide repercussions was given two different interpretations or angles.

He observed that the news report was "more objective and comprehensive as it covers the different angles of the event, while the write-up in the column was a quote from a single source."

He posed the question: "In the face of conflicting reports or in a confusing situation like this, which should the readers believe, the news written by a reporter or the opinion of a columnist?"

Standards

Before I answer the reader's question, let me give you some background information about the editorial rules that apply to the two classes of journalists.

The editorial staff reviews news reports submitted by reporters. The draft of the news is initially read by the section editor concerned. If it passes muster, it is approved for inclusion in the following day's edition.

In case the subject of the news is important enough to merit front-page treatment, the report is assigned by the managing editor or news editor to a desk editor who will check on its accuracy, fairness, style and grammar. Sometimes, the managing editor or editor in chief takes a look at the report also to make sure all sides of the issue or event are covered.

At any stage of the process, the reporter can be called upon by the editorial staff to double-check certain information, look into an angle that may have been overlooked or get additional data. If an editor has some doubts about the contents or interpretation of a document referred to in the news, he may ask the reporter to "fax" that paper to him so he can go through it himself.

It is not uncommon for the editorial staff to hold in abeyance the publication of a news report when it has serious reservations about the accuracy of certain information, or the subject of the news is still unfolding, or the side of one of the parties in the story still has to be secured.

The winnowing mechanism is aimed at minimizing, if not preventing, complaints about accuracy and fairness. Nothing can ruin an editor's day most than to see an error that could have been avoided with a little more attention to detail or extra effort to verify doubtful information.

Columnists

The columnists do not undergo the same kind of scrutiny. The newspaper assumes that they know what they are writing about. That they are men and women of integrity who will not use their columns for "AC-DC" (meaning "attack and collect" or "defend and collect") purposes.

The Opinion editor, in the case of columns in the Opinion section, or section editors concerned, for all other columns, review the columnists' articles only to make sure they conform to the INQUIRER's policies on style and grammar and are not libelous.

The editors also watch out for columns being used to promote the personal agenda of the columnists or act as sounding board for certain economic or political interests. The alarm bells start ringing when a columnist writes about an issue or news personality over and over again.

When columnists make statements of facts in their columns, the newspaper presumes that their accounts are accurate. That they checked their sources of information or made a careful review of the events as narrated to them before they wrote them in their columns.

This presumption proceeds from the theory that the columnists are men and women of integrity and independence who do not need looking-over-the-shoulder supervision. Besides, the editors do not have the time to check the accuracy of the "reportorial content" of the columns. Their hands are already full reviewing the reports of their reporters. The bottom line is columnists are responsible for the accuracy of their statement of facts.

Going back to the reader's question, if there is a conflict between a news report and a column, I would resolve it in favor of the news report for the reasons stated above.

File photo

Last July 16, the INQUIRER's front-page headline was "Marcoses lose $682 million." Below the banner was a black and white photo of the late President Ferdinand Marcos being bussed by then first lady Imelda Marcos on the occasion of the celebration of his alleged victory in the Feb. 16, 1986 snap elections. Looking on were men and women who appeared to be their close friends.

A reader from Cainta, Rizal, commented that the newspaper "did a disservice to the readers by failing to give the names of the other people in the picture." She wants to know who they are and, in the process, find out what has happened to them since the Marcoses were kicked out of power.

Sorry, but nobody in the editorial room or photo section has any idea as to the identity of those people. The picture is a file photo from the Agence France Press news service. It did not carry any caption. Some of the people look familiar, but considering the 18-year time lapse, the identification process will be purely guesswork.

At the time the photo was taken, the INQUIRER was not welcome in Malacañang. Its photographers were banned from the presidential premises. Hence, its reliance on news agency photos.

If there are readers out there who can give clues on the identity of those faithful followers of the Marcoses, please send them to me so I can satisfy the curiosity of a reader.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Problem is not in Constitution

BLAMING the Constitution for our country's ills is like blaming the Titanic for its accident. Our Constitution is not perfect but it is not the real problem. The real problem is the crew, or the people whose job it is to run the country. The present crew is too caught up in politics to see that we are headed toward certain disaster. What we really need to do is to change the crew, not the ship. Another ship with the same crew is still doomed. We need a crew with unquestionable integrity, courage and strong political will to steer our country back to prosperity.

In 2000, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was given the rare opportunity to change the country's course with a new crew. I really thought she would do it, too when she announced her "good governance" program early in her term. However, by appointing traditional politicians to her Cabinet, she has sent a clear message that she is not really interested in changing course or challenging the status quo. GMA had the chance to become a great President and she blew it.

Most Filipinos, including myself, are still hoping that someone will "step up to the plate and hit a home run" for the Philippines and the Filipino people. But I am afraid that this is not going to happen anytime soon. It may require a revolution, peaceful or otherwise, to get our country back on the road to prosperity and justice. This could happen yet because history has time and again proven the undeniable truth that "there can be no political stability without prosperity and justice." Our learned leaders should realize, before it is too late, that if we do not change our ways, we would have a violent revolution in our hands sooner than later.

In case our leaders do not know the meaning of integrity, this word is synonymous to honor, honesty, probity, uprightness and righteousness. Calling each other honorable is funny, if not for the P380 billion our government loses to corruption every year. (2002 Morgan Stanley Research Study, Aug. 27, 2002) This is a whopping P1.04 billion a day, an obscene amount in any country, a nightmare in ours. Do you know that if this amount is spent on job creation, it will liberate over 15 million Filipinos from the hell of poverty?

Assuming that charter change is a step in the right direction, can we really entrust this most important undertaking (our future) to our politicians? To me, this would be like asking a thief to design my house.

—VIRGILIO G. MEDINA,
Asian Mansion II,
Dela Rosa Street, Makati City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Celibacy is a free choice

WITH DUE respect to Msgr. Nico Bautista, I do not agree that priests should be allowed to get married.

A priest makes a voluntary decision, a personal choice, to remain celibate when he opts to pursue a religious vocation. He should learn to control his impulses and sexual urges and focus his thoughts on Christ.

Nobody forces or coerces them to choose the priestly life. One cannot have "the best of both worlds." Otherwise *ka-swapangan na iyon.*

I left the seminary because I realized that I wanted to have my own family and I could still serve God in some other way.

—DAVE TABANIAG,
Tandang Sora, Quezon City

MMDA will not cut trees on Katipunan Avenue

THIS has reference to the articles that appeared in the Metro section of the July 11 issue of the INQUIRER entitled "Katipunan tree-cutting gets green light," and another article in the same page that again referred to the removal of trees as "tree-cutting."

We wish to object to the manner that your publication has so carelessly and repeatedly referred to our road-widening project in Katipunan. The title given to the article written by Leila Salaverria is very wrong and completely false. We cannot understand why the INQUIRER insists on using the term "tree-cutting" when nowhere in the article of Salaverria did she make mention of the phrase. She rightly described the MMDA project as "...the removal of the service islands on Katipunan Avenue, as well as the trees that are planted in the islands..."

In another article on the same page, the Katipunan project was again erroneously described. To rectify these mistakes committed by your publication, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority reiterates as it has done so time and again in the past that, "The authority will not cut the trees in Katipunan Avenue but will transfer the said trees to nearby locations."

Your erroneous description of the Katipunan project continues to put the authority in a bad light.

We hope that this letter will once and for all settle the issue that no tree-cutting will take place because of the road-widening project in Katipunan Avenue.

—ROBERT C. NACIANCENO,
general manager, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority,
MMDA Bldg., Edsa cor. Orense St.,
Guadalupe, Makati City

Democratizing the selection of national artists

THE PUBLISHED comments regarding the National Artist Award should be given more space. They help inform the people about the award and encourage more democratic involvement in the selection of National Artists.

Two things, however, disturb me.

First, the comments about the selection process. It seems to me that the major commentators about the present search and selection process have not read the guidelines issued by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP). That is why the critics of the process cannot appreciate the changes made by the NCCA and CCP to democratize the selection process or discern the great difference between the process during the time of Marcos and the procedures currently applied to at least two batches of National Artists.

In the same way, the commentators cannot properly figure out the significant role of the Council of Peers in the selection process or the system by which the council is constituted. Blinded by their ignorance, the commentators unjustly dismissed the Council of Peers as another *barkada* and *tayo-tayo* society.

The present process, I believe, is far from perfect but it cannot be improved by ignorance of the current guidelines used by the NCCA and CCP.

Second, the comments regarding my seven-sentence response during the awarding ceremony in Malacañang. Again, I noticed that most of the commentators on the matter were not present in the ceremony and are thus liable to misinterpret the last sentence of my response.

As I can recall now, I tried to transmit two commonly expressed messages on such occasion. The great happiness the award brings me and how at the same time it humbles me. So I devoted half of my response to a litany of *salamat po.* To the people who have helped me get the award, including my nominators, the members of the Council of Peers who voted for me, the NCCA-CCP board members, and lastly, the *"diyoses na may kapangyarihang magdagdag at magbawas sa kaligayahan ng ganitong araw."*

I was truly grateful not only to the President of the Philippines but also to her advisers or consultants in Malacañang for accepting my nomination as National Artist. I am fully aware that under Proclamation No. 1001, it is the President who proclaims National Artists. The decisions of the Council of Peers and the joint NCCA-CCP boards are merely recommendatory. The President has the power to alter—which means not only to add (*magdagdag*) but also to subtract (*magbawas*)—the list submitted by the NCCA-CCP.

And so I repeat, I was sincerely grateful to the *diyoses* (not *diyosa* as misquoted in a newspaper) because my name was not deleted from the list of four artists recommended by the NCCA-CCP. I did not "denounce," as some quarters claimed, the choice by the President of Alejandro Roces as a fifth National Artist in our batch.

—VIRGILIO S. ALMARIO,
national artist

No 'basura' stocks in Insular Life portfolio

THIS is with reference to an item in Vic Agustin's Cocktales column last July 14 regarding Insular Life's supposed losses in the stock market and real estate and its so-called *"basura"* stocks.

The bulk of Insular Life's equity portfolio is in blue chip stocks like Ayala Corp., Ayala Land, Globe Telecom, Union Bank, Jollibee, Meralco, San Miguel Corp., SM Prime and PLDT, and triple-A rated companies like Pilipinas Shell, hardly *"basura"* stocks. While some of these stocks may be trading now at lower prices than before, this is a function of the market. On the other hand, Insular Life's real estate holdings consist of properties in some of the most prime locations in Makati and in key cities all over the Philippines. While market demand for real estate is low, the market value of these properties is way above our acquisition costs.

The weak equities and real estate markets, a situation common to all life insurance companies and to the whole business sector, coupled with the drop in market interest rates (interest on the benchmark 91-day treasury bills are now at the 5.3 percent level from highs of 21.5 percent average in 1991 and 16 percent in 1992) have resulted in lower dividends for policyholders which in turn had an effect on the self-liquidating feature of certain policies.

However, the self-liquidating feature is not a guaranteed feature, being a dividend-based benefit. We have made this clear to policyholders from the very start, as indeed no company can guarantee dividends that still have to be earned in the future.

Again, this reduction in policyholder dividends is not unique to Insular Life but is true of other companies as well. In our case, we have chosen to be very transparent to our policyholders by informing them of any changes in their dividend illustrations caused by economic downturns.

Nevertheless, all of these developments have no impact on our ability to make good on our contractual obligations to policyholders. We would like to assure you and all our other policyholders that we solidly stand behind our commitment to pay all our policyholders' contractual benefits as and when they fall due.

We take this opportunity to give you our phone number (771-1111). In the future, we would greatly appreciate a call to clarify matters especially before printing them. This will give your readers and our policyholders the objective report they deserve.

—VICENTE R. AYLLÓN
chair of the board and president,
The Insular Life Assurance Co.,
IL Corporate Centre,
Corporate cor. Commerce Avenues, Filinvest Corporate City,
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

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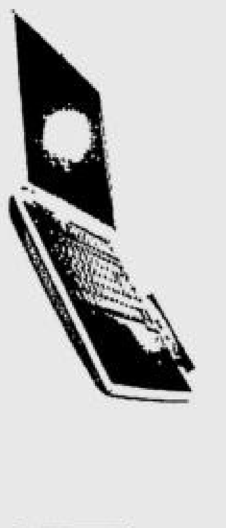

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Blair won't quit over new scandal

PM also won't recall Parliament following suicide of scientist

SEOUL—British Prime Minister Tony Blair said Sunday he would take full responsibility if an inquiry found that his government had indirectly contributed to the suicide of a former UN weapons inspector caught up in a row over the Iraq war.

But the prime minister insisted he had no intention of resigning, despite the controversy surrounding the death of David Kelly and the ongoing row over the government's use of intelligence in the buildup to war. He also rejected calls to cut short his tour of Asia.

"Because of the seriousness of what's happened, because somebody has died as a result of the events of the last few weeks, it's right that we have an inquiry," Blair told Sky Television's Sunday with Adam Boulton program, recorded before he left Japan for talks with South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun.

"I have been through quite a few times when people have said this is a terrible situation and all the rest of it . . . but you go through tough times as a government and you go through difficult times as the prime minister," Blair added.

Asked if he still had the appetite to continue as prime minister he responded defiantly: "Absolutely."

Blair's government has been fighting with the British Broadcasting Corp. over its report that the government "sexed up" an intelligence dossier to include the claim, allegedly against the wishes of intelligence chiefs, that Saddam Hussein could launch chemical and biological weapons on 45 minutes' notice.

Kelly, a defense ministry expert, contacted his superiors and admitted meeting the reporter who filed the disputed story—and his name quickly leaked out.

Kelly's wife said her husband felt enormous pressure when he was called before a parliamentary committee, where he denied that he was the source the government was vigorously trying to smoke out.

His body was found near his home in southern England Friday and police later said he had apparently killed himself by slashing his left wrist.

In Britain, the prime minister has faced calls to resign over the issue, and Conservative Party leader Iain Duncan Smith has suggested Blair should come home and recall Parliament from its summer recess.

"Recalling Parliament would generate more heat than light and I do not think that is appropriate," Blair told reporters before leaving Japan for South Korea.

"I think we should have a period of reflection and the period in which the judge can carry out his inquiry and also allow the family time to grieve," he told reporters.

Asked directly if he would take responsibility for the actions of officials, he replied: "Of course. In the end the government is my responsibility and I can assure you the judge will be able to get to what facts, what people, what papers he wants." *AP*

US combat deaths in Iraq breach 150

BAGHDAD—Two US soldiers were killed in an ambush in northern Iraq on Sunday, as Shiites took to the streets in the holy city of Najaf in angry protest in support of a fiery cleric opposed to the US-led occupation.

The two soldiers were killed when they came under rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire west of Mosul, in the normally quiet Kurdish-dominated north, pushing US combat deaths during the Iraq campaign above 150.

With anger at the US-led occupation spilling onto the streets, more than 1,000 demonstrators rallied in Najaf and planned to march on a US base near the city in support of cleric Moqtada Sadr, a fiery critic of the occupation.

Chanting "No, no to America! No, no to the arrogant!" the protesters rallied outside Najaf's main mosque, the tomb of imam Ali and one of the holiest sites in Shiite Islam, dressed in white robes and wearing green headbands.

"We are the followers of Sadr!" they chanted, beating their chests, punching their fists in the air and carrying banners depicting Sadr's father, assassinated by agents of Saddam Hussein in 1999.

Sadr, who has seen his popularity rocket in the chaos and power vacuum of post-war Iraq, said that US troops had besieged his home on Saturday after he gave an outspoken sermon Friday lambasting the coalition.

The cleric's spokesperson, Mustafa Yaqubi, said Sunday that a crowd of demonstrators had marched on the US base outside the town late Saturday and that they had met a senior US officer who had apologized for the incident.

"The first thing people want is to protect Sadr from any harm. After his speech it became a possibility that he would be harmed," Yaqubi said.

He said Iraq's Shiite majority—whose support is considered crucial to US efforts to rebuild Iraq—was still seeking a peaceful resolution, but warned the US-led coalition not to interfere in Iraqi politics.

The palpable display of anger sends an alarming message to the US-led coalition from the Shiites who, until now, have gone along with the occupation, unlike the country's Sunni minority, blamed for a string of guerrilla-style attacks on US forces.

With both the Sunnis who propped up Saddam and the Shiite majority long suppressed under his rule now apparently turning on the council, the US plans for rebuilding Iraq would seem to be losing desperately-needed support.

A radicalized Shiite community under Sadr, who called Friday for the organization of a Muslim Army and the shutdown of US-backed television and radio stations, could further tilt the balance against the coalition.

Sadr's militia, or self-proclaimed "Mehdi Army," started recruiting on Saturday in the Baghdad Shiite suburb of Sadr City, named after the cleric's father. *AFP*

US tells Taylor foes: Hold fire; talk peace

MONROVIA—Mortar and gunfire rocked the war-battered Liberian capital Monrovia early Sunday after a night of fighting as the United States urged advancing rebels to hold their fire and return to peace talks.

A fragile month-old ceasefire in a ruinous four-year rebel war lay in tatters as steady shelling and gunfire punctuated the night in the seaside capital, but the intensity decreased after dawn in the Mamba Point district where several embassies and humanitarian organizations are based.

The capital was on tenterhooks amid mounting tension. Militias and troops loyal to President Charles Taylor, who now controls only a fifth of his country, were scattered across the city, jumpy and armed to the teeth.

Rebels from the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) group pushed over a key bridge on the outskirts of the capital during heavy fighting Saturday, fueling further panic in the devastated city.

Liberian government officials said several people—up to 20 according to some—died when a shell landed in the heart of the city on Saturday after thousands of citizens staged a gigantic rally against the ongoing war.

The rebels on Saturday also wrested control of the key port area after crossing Saint Paul's Bridge in the morning.

The US ambassador to Liberia—a country with close historic ties to the United States because it was founded in the 19th century by freed American slaves—called on rebel fighters to halt their advance on Monrovia and prevent further bloodshed.

Ambassador John Blaney said in a statement late Saturday: "As you all know the LURD has entered Monrovia; the LURD should not advance further into the city and should cease fire.

"On behalf of the United States I call upon the LURD to respect human rights and minimize the suffering of the Liberian people.

"The world is watching the way you conduct yourselves now and the United States expects you to make every effort to ensure the safety of all civilians."

The ambassador also said Washington expected the rebels to "return to the negotiations" being brokered by the Economic Community of West African States in the Ghanaian capital Accra "regardless of the military situation."

He called on them to respect the rights "of all citizens and those of foreign countries."

Blaney said: "Lasting peace must be based on a broad political understanding, and fighting government forces in Monrovia does not change that fact." *AFP*

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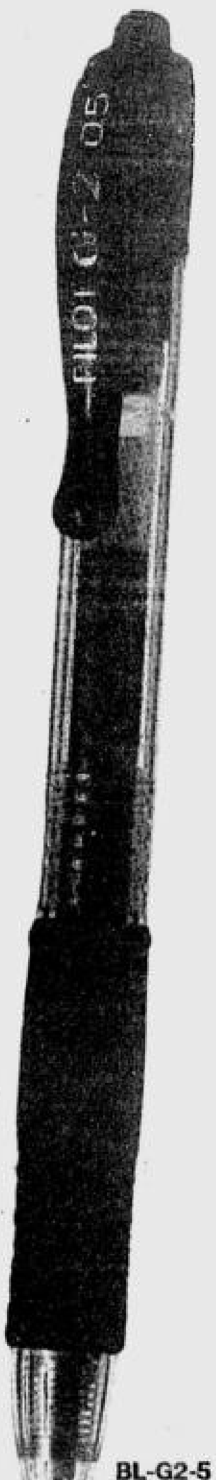
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Beijing backs Hong Kong leader

HONG KONG—Beijing's renewed support for embattled Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa was predictable and left unresolved massive discontent in the territory triggered by an anti-subversion bill, opposition lawmakers said Sunday.

"No matter how much the central government backs Tung, he is still a lame duck," said pro-democracy legislator and Unionist Lee Cheuk-yan.

Tung is facing his worst political crisis since he was put in charge of Hong Kong when Britain returned this former colony to the mainland six years ago.

A march on July 1 by a half million people who fear the anti-subversion measure would undermine civil liberties forced Tung to put it on hold for now and he said he would open new public consultations before his next attempt to get it enacted.

Chinese President Hu Jintao backed Tung on Saturday, and also said Hong Kong's people would eventually support the national security legislation.

But pro-democracy lawmakers and rights activists expressed doubts on Sunday that the overwhelming public opinion against the bill would change.

"People have made their views clear," opposition lawmaker and persistent Tung critic Emily Lau said on Sunday. "Even if the central government doesn't respond, the people won't keep quiet."

Public sentiment toward Tung has also been soured by Hong Kong's staggering economy, and there's little economic relief in sight. Statistics released last week show that the SARS outbreak that killed almost 300 people here and battered many businesses had pushed unemployment to a record 8.6 percent. *AP*

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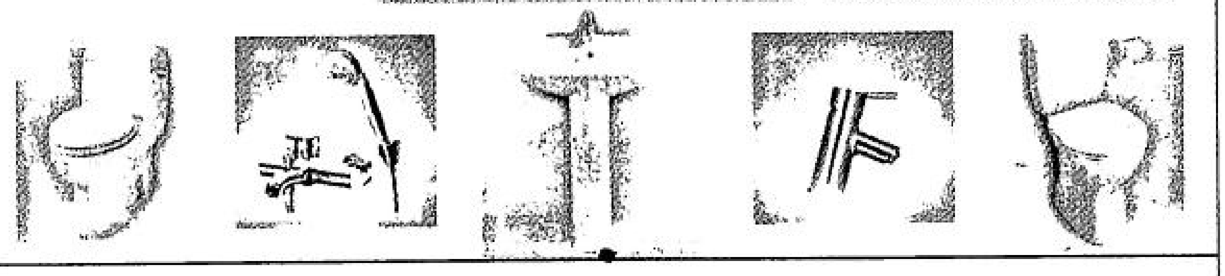

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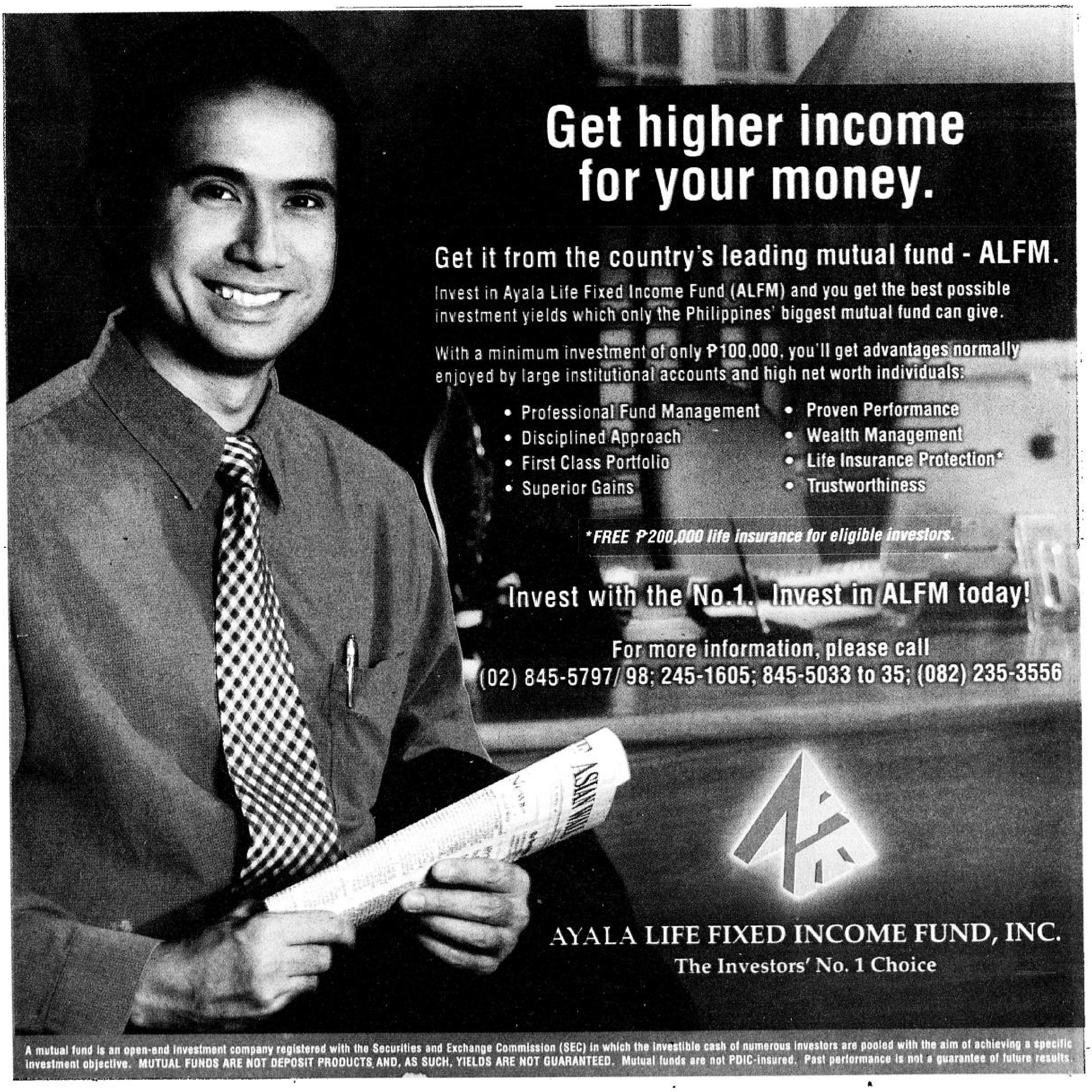

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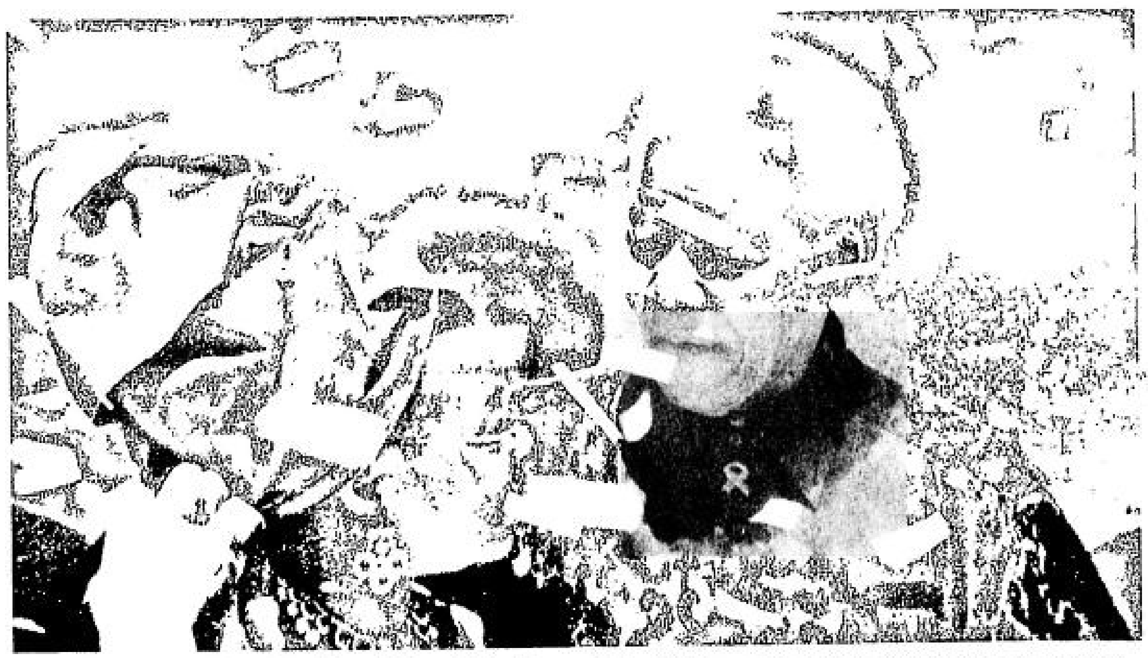
Stars, pols party with Mandela



FORMER South African President Nelson Mandela and his wife Graca Machel are feted with a shower of confetti at the end of Mandela's star-studded 85th birthday party celebration in Johannesburg. AP

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—Hollywood stars, royalty and politicians joined former President Nelson Mandela at a banquet Saturday to celebrate his 85th birthday.

Former US President Bill Clinton, his wife Hillary and their daughter, Chelsea, were among the 1,600 guests from around the world at the highlight of a series events to honor the former South African president, whose birthday was on Friday.

Walking up the red carpet to the sounds of a marimba band and an African choir, stars of the stage and screen like Robert de Niro, Naomi Campbell and Oprah Winfrey entered the Sandton Convention Center for what has been described as "the party of the millennium."

Sporting heroes rubbed shoulders with former political prisoners, musicians and millionaires.

"It was a massive operation," Professor Jakes Gerwel, chair of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, said in describing the banquet's planning.

"I'm just waiting for my bear hug," quipped Gerwel's wife Febe, who said she had not yet had an opportunity to congratulate Mandela on his birthday.

South African President Thabo Mbeki, who was accompanied by his wife Zanele, was seated next to Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands.

Walking with a cane, a smiling Mandela and his third wife, Graca Machel received a standing ovation as South African singer Yvonne Chaka Chaka and a choir of children sang "Happy Birthday" and added the words "we love you . . . this is your day."

Guests were entertained by Bono, Irish pop group The Corrs and South African group Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

"We thank God for you, Madiba, for teaching us to forgive," retired Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu said, referring to Mandela by his clan name. "We thank God for you for reminding us that we are made for goodness, for caring, for compassion for gentleness, for sharing."

Unable to attend the banquet was Raymond Mhlaba, who was sentenced to life in prison with Mandela in 1964. Mhlaba was in the hospital after suffering a mild stroke.

Mandela, who was in prison for 27 years, had already been in jail for more than a year on a different charge when he was convicted in that trial.

After being released from prison in 1990, Mandela won the nation's first all-race elections after the fall of apartheid in 1994. He retired in 1999 but remains as popular as ever.

At the end of the evening Mandela and Machel danced in a group that included Bono, Tutu, the Clintons and Winfrey.

Earlier Saturday Mandela attended the funeral of his daughter-in-law, Zondi Mandela, who died this week from pneumonia. She was the wife of his only remaining son, Makgatho, born to Mandela and his first wife, Evelyn Ntoko. Their other son, Thembi, was killed in a car accident in 1969 while Mandela was in prison.

Queen Elizabeth II, Cuban President Fidel Castro and Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo sent letters of congratulation. Video birthday greetings came from Bill Cosby, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Clinton, presenting the inaugural Nelson Mandela Lecture on Saturday morning in which he said the world should do more for Africa, called Mandela a "gift to humanity."

"In my lifetime only two people have made the personal journey as the leaders of their nations in the rough and tumble world of politics, Mahatma Gandhi and his worthy successor, Nelson Mandela," Clinton said to applause.

He spoke at length about his family's attachment to Mandela, which began when he and his daughter Chelsea watched an early morning television broadcast of Mandela "walking to his freedom" in 1990.

"I am only his third biggest fan in my family," Clinton said, bringing a wide smile to Mandela's face who received a hug from Hillary Clinton.

"We can't work for Africa, or against Africa, but must work with Africa," he said.

While Mandela is respected and admired across the world, to South Africans he is a superstar of near-mythic proportions. AP

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WorldBriefs

New Iran missile inaugurated

TEHRAN—Iran's supreme leader on Sunday inaugurated a new ballistic missile that brings Israel within range of the Islamic republic, hailing the event as a key moment in the defense of the Palestinian cause. "Today our people and our Armed Forces are ready to defend their goals anywhere," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei told a ceremony for the elite Revolutionary Guards carried on state television. "This divine force has answered all threats, and we are witnessing today that this divine force is now doing the same for the Lebanese and the Palestinian people," he added in the ceremony to bring the Shahab-3 missile into service. AFP

PMs seek to advance peace

JERUSALEM—The Israeli and Palestinian prime ministers were scheduled to meet Sunday for the first time in almost three weeks, kicking off 10 days of international diplomacy aimed at solidifying a fragile Mideast ceasefire and advancing the US-backed "road map" peace plan. Talks are expected to focus on the release of Palestinian prisoners, with Israel indicating it may partly back away from its previous position against freeing any members of the two Islamic militant groups that have waged a campaign of suicide bombings against Israelis. AP

75,000 mourn salsa artist in Miami

MIAMI—Tens of thousands of mourners lined the streets on Saturday to pay their respects to salsa legend and Cuban exile Celia Cruz, weeping at her casket but also celebrating her music and shouting her trademark phrase, "Azucar!" "This is Celia's day. She is the personification of Cuba, the free Cuba and the future Cuba," said Roly More, grandson of singer Benny More. The line stretched for 15 blocks at one point for the viewing at the Freedom Tower—the Ellis Island of the Cuban community, where immigration officials processed more than 500,000 Cubans who fled Fidel Castro's government in the 1960s. AP

Japan socialist leader under fire

TOKYO—The leader of Japan's socialist party said she would not resign to take the blame for a scandal involving a one-time aide and a former socialist lawmaker who were arrested for allegedly misappropriating public funds. Takako Doi, leader of the Social Democratic Party, denied that her party was involved in a wider conspiracy to defraud the government and questioned the timing of the arrests. The scandal was an embarrassment for Japan's second-largest opposition party, which has long appealed to voters by pouncing on cases of government corruption, and could prove a liability in a national election expected as early as November. AP

Parents urged to keep conjoined twins

NEW DELHI—A hospital in India's capital is attempting to convince the parents of two conjoined 35-day-old boys to take them home instead of abandoning them, a news report said Sunday. The unnamed babies have a fused liver, bladder, intestines and genital organs, although their heads, chests and hearts are separate, The Hindustan Times reported. "They are symmetrically fused and both babies are quite healthy," the newspaper quoted pediatric surgeon Dr. DK Gupta as saying. Together, they weigh 3.3 kg, he said. AP

10 more killed in Aceh fighting

JAKARTA—At least 10 people, mostly separatist rebels, were killed on the weekend in violence pitting the guerrillas against government forces in Indonesia's Aceh province, the military said here Sunday. A mob of civilians also resorted to hostage taking in their bid to secure the release of civilians abducted by separatist rebels from the Free Aceh Movement (GAM), a statement from the Indonesian military headquarters said. In Nagan Raya district, some 3,500 civilians angered by the abduction of four villagers by the GAM earlier in the week took hostage on Saturday 36 family members of two known guerrillas in Kuala to force the rebels to release their captives, the statement said. AFP

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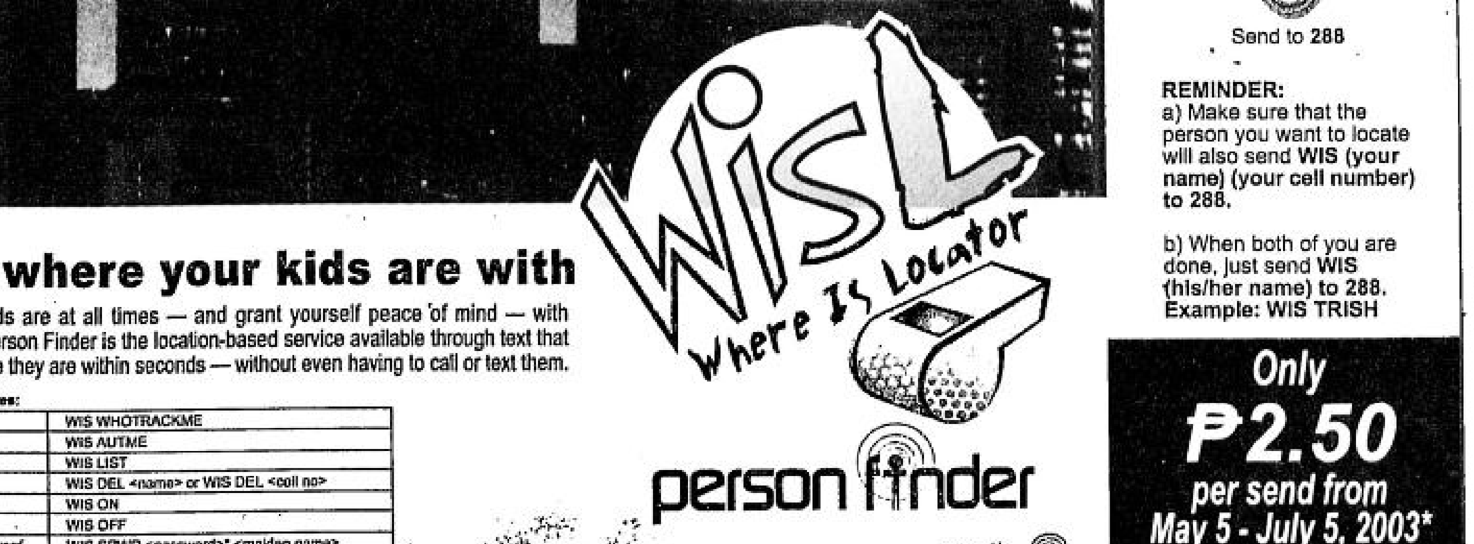

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Tarlac folk reject Clark dump plan

By Jo Clemente
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAPAS, Tarlac—Garbage stinks, and the stench caused by the $6.72-million sanitary landfill project of the Clark Development Corp. (CDC) in Sitio Kalangitan in Barangay Cutcut II is filling the air anew with a move to open the landfill to accommodate garbage from other areas.

The Metro Clark Advisory Council (MCAC), a group of local governments around Clark, and the CDC claimed that allowing other areas to dispose of their garbage in Kalangitan would solve the growing waste problem of local governments that still maintain open dumps.

The continued restriction of the site to other garbage sources, however, had reduced the viability of the project and, with it, the potential earnings for the CDC.

But MCAC's resolution requesting the Tarlac provincial government to allow other Central Luzon areas to dump garbage at the Integrated Waste Management Center in Kalangitan was met with renewed opposition from Capas officials.

Mayor Reynaldo Catacutan, who claimed he never knew of the MCAC resolution despite being a member of the group, said there is nothing in the project that is beneficial to his town.

"Everything is at the expense of the people of Capas. There is no business tax as (the project sits) inside the Clark ecozone, which enjoys tax incentives, and no real estate tax as this is a CDC property inside the territory of the town. The promise of new roads never happened because CDC claims it is not within its budget," Catacutan said.

"Not even our garbage is sent to this landfill because we have our own solid waste management site and we cannot afford the tipping fees. (There will be) no employment, just the stench of the garbage that fills the air," he added.

He said despite the town's opposition, the project was pursued.

"Now, they want the rest of the region to make my town a dumpsite because they need more trash (for the project to) be profitable," he said.

He said the Capas government has filed a case asking the Supreme Court to issue a permanent restraining order on the landfill's operation.

"We should wait for the decision of the Supreme Court on a case we filed asking for a permanent restraining order. The case, which was filed last year, had been submitted for resolution," he said.

The MCAC resolution was issued to support a request from the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) asking the Tarlac provincial government access to the landfill.

But Board Member Carlito David, majority floor leader of the Tarlac provincial board, said granting the request would require the revocation of an earlier resolution that allowed the operation of the landfill only for use of CDC locators and the towns of Capas, Concepcion and Bamban and Tarlac City.

David said to accommodate such request, "we have to revoke that resolution and before that, we have to conduct consultations and dialogues with affected constituencies."

Emmanuel Angeles, CDC president, expressed full support for the NSWMC's request because the landfill, he said, is the only solution to the growing garbage problem in the region. Angeles said the garbage being collected daily at the landfill is no longer viable, noting that it is too small to sustain operations.

Since 1999, the project has been the subject of protests in Tarlac as residents fear that the garbage of Metro Manila will be dumped at the landfill.

The provincial government endorsed the project last year on the condition that only garbage from business locators inside CDC and some towns in Tarlac would be dumped in the area.

Power firm freezes benefits to N. Vizcaya

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Nearly two years after a power generation facility in the province started operations, the facility's foreign owners would not pay benefits to host towns just yet.

David Baldwin, president of the California Energy-Casecnan Water and Energy Company (CE Casecnan), said Nueva Vizcaya would have to present legal bases of its right to receive a share from the national wealth tax, before the American firm pays the benefits.

"It is respectfully suggested that the provincial government (of Nueva Vizcaya) first obtain a definitive ruling or opinion that the province is authorized to demand direct remittance of its share of the national wealth tax due from affected private companies such as CE Casecnan," Baldwin said in a letter to Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani.

CE Casecnan is the owner and operator of the Casecnan multipurpose power and irrigation project (CMIPP), which was built under a 25-year build-operate-transfer agreement with the Philippine government.

The structure is composed of two dams that siphon water from two rivers—Casecnan and Taan—in Nueva Vizcaya, and divert the water, through a pair of 26-km tunnels, to a power plant in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija.

Under Republic Act 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) of 2001, host communities of power generating projects are mandated to receive a share of at least one centavo for every kilowatt-hour sold from the power project.

Baldwin was responding to a letter from Agbayani, who expressed the provincial government's intention to "avail immediately" of the benefits, which include financial assistance to community projects and the national wealth tax share.

"May we request your agency to carry out these benefits for Nueva Vizcaya on or before July 15, in line with the administrative requirements of this program," Agbayani said, citing provisions of the Epira, the Local Government Code and Energy Regulations 1-94.

He warned that the provincial government would be forced to go to the courts "to avail (ourselves) of what is properly and morally due to the people of Nueva Vizcaya," Agbayani said.

But Baldwin said certain "administrative issues" should be addressed, before the benefits could be granted to host localities of the CMIPP.

The Department of Energy, which, Baldwin said is mandated to administer the funds, has yet to issue the list of host communities entitled to receive the benefits.

"We would also point out that neither the Epira nor the LGC expressly provides for the process regarding the remittance of national wealth tax of affected private companies, such as CE Casecnan," Baldwin said in his letter.

The two host provinces, Nueva Vizcaya and Nueva Ecija, should also work out a binding agreement that would determine the share of the respective local government units, Baldwin suggested.

He described as "premature" and "unreasonable" Agbayani's plan to go to court to obtain the province's benefits.

Agbayani insisted that the host governments need the funds "very badly" to provide basic services, because residents in the Casecnan area were suffering from a malaria epidemic.

He also expressed alarm over reports of unabated illegal logging in the area, which, he said, would definitely cause the rivers to dry up.

"(Timber poaching) would continue for as long as poverty is prevalent in the area. But if we could get our (national share), the funds would be used to provide livelihood for the Bugkalot people," Agbayani told the INQUIRER. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

DENR stops treasure hunts on Mt. Banahaw

LUCENA CITY—The officials of the community environment and natural resources office have stopped the Japanese treasure hunts on Mt. Banahaw and seized all the digging equipment in a surprised inspection by a multisectoral group on Thursday.

Jose Elmer Basco, head of the local environment office which has jurisdiction in the area, said, after the story came out in the INQUIRER, that he immediately dispatched the Park Area Superintendent (Pasu) to investigate alleged treasure hunting on Mt. Banahaw.

"Any form of treasure hunting activities without any valid permit is illegal, much more if it's being done within a protected area," he said adding that only the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has the authority to issue the permit.

The Tayabas Mountaineers reported the alleged illegal treasure-hunting on Mt. Banahaw and urged government agencies to stop the activities to save the area from further damage.

Sally Pangan, Mt. Banahaw-San Cristobal Pasu, reported that when they reached the place, at least ten members of the treasure hunting team were working on the supposed site of the buried Japanese treasures, but only the group's supervisor and two workers remained and faced them. The others ran and hid.

The three were tight-lipped about their operation (as were) the persons behind the treasure-hunting venture, Pangan said.

"What they were insisting was that the treasure hunt has a permit from Malacañang and covers Tayabas, Sariaya and Mauban," she said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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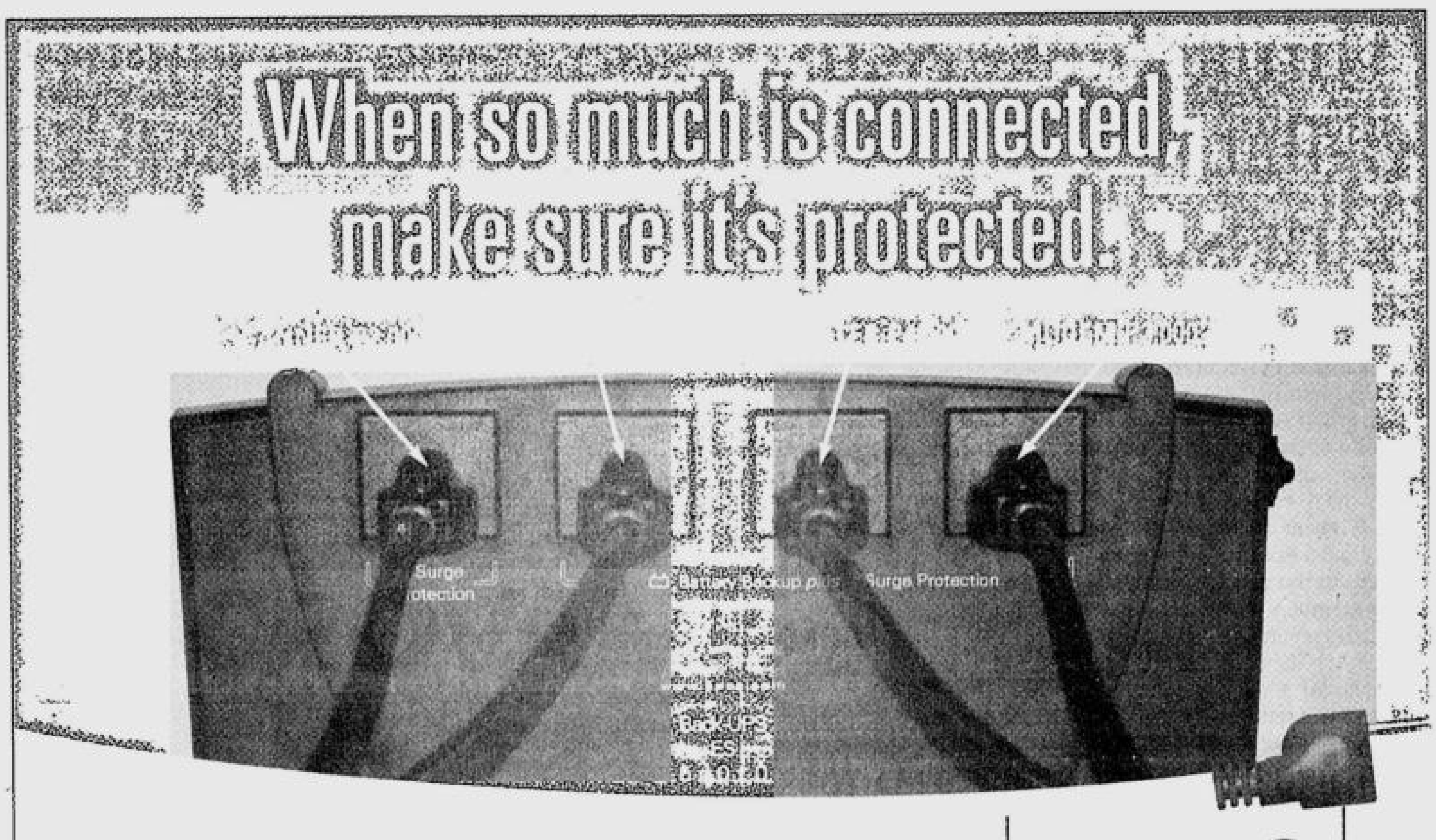
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Reds call on restive soldiers to join NPA

LUCENA CITY—"Join the New People's Army." This was the call aired by Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal addressed to restive soldiers and junior officers.

"We urge them to turn their backs on the reactionary, rotten and losing course of the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines), uphold the tradition of the Lt. Crispin Tagamolila Movement and join and support the revolutionary movement that serves the masses and marches on the road (to) people's liberation," Rosal said in a statement. Tagamolila was a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy who defected to the communist movement in the early '70s.

He said "many ordinary soldiers and policemen have approached the revolutionary movement for advice on how they could defend their rights and welfare."

He charged that AFP generals and the DND leadership "not only wallow in large salaries, luxuries and special privileges such as mansions, but also accumulate so much wealth from corruption as well as illegal drugs, kidnapping for ransom, bank holdups and other criminal activities."

He said there were also cases of misappropriation of soldier's funds and kickbacks from purchase contracts.

The soldiers' measly pay is not worth dying for, he said. "Their deaths are made even more worthless because they are defending a system that oppresses and exploits workers and peasants, the same classes which they also came from," Rosal said.

He called junior officers and ordinary soldiers not only to fight for their welfare against oppression from their generals but also to "uphold the Filipino people's patriotic and democratic aspirations."

Even as he called on the soldiers to join the communist ranks, his comrades in Mt. Province were justifying their attack on Army soldiers in Barangay Talubin, Bontoc town on July 14, where eight soldiers were killed.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, Ka Magno Udyaw, spokesperson of the NPA's Leonardo Pacsi Command, said government troops have to "suffer and pay for the abuses" they committed against residents of Mt. Province since 1992.

"The people (of Mt. Province) have become vulnerable. The military often claims that an encounter has ensued between the NPA and government soldiers, when they actually target civilians," Udyaw said.

At least eight Bontoc elders have been killed and several women abused since the establishment of the Army's 24th Infantry Battalion detachment in Barangay Talubin in 1992. Some residents were also detained illegally by Army soldiers in the area, he said.

But Lt. Col. Preme Monta, spokesperson of the Army's Northern Luzon Command based in Tarlac City, dismissed the NPA's accusations as "propaganda."

"The rebels took advantage of the situation. What they did (ambush on soldiers) was a treacherous act because we were there on a humanitarian mission. They could not justify the ambush," Monta said.

He said the NPA staged the ambush "to project that they are winning in their desperate armed struggle."

"Their propensity to exploit issues to justify their actions will clearly aggravate their criminal offenses," he said.

Monta said they would file multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder charges against the NPA in Mt. Province for the July 14 ambush and raid on the Army detachment in Talubin. Two militiamen were wounded in the attack.

Army officials earlier assailed the NPA for targetting non-combatants during the Bontoc ambush.

The soldiers were on board a military truck and took home the remains of Cpl. Ronald Palangchao, who died in a vehicular accident, to Bontoc, his hometown.

The soldiers were returning to their base in Nueva Ecija, when they were attacked. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Desiree Caluza,PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Camarines official suspended for dishonesty, estafa

NAGA CITY—The Ombudsman, through Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Victor Fernandez, meted out a six-month suspension without pay on provincial board member Pablo N. Prado for dishonesty and estafa.

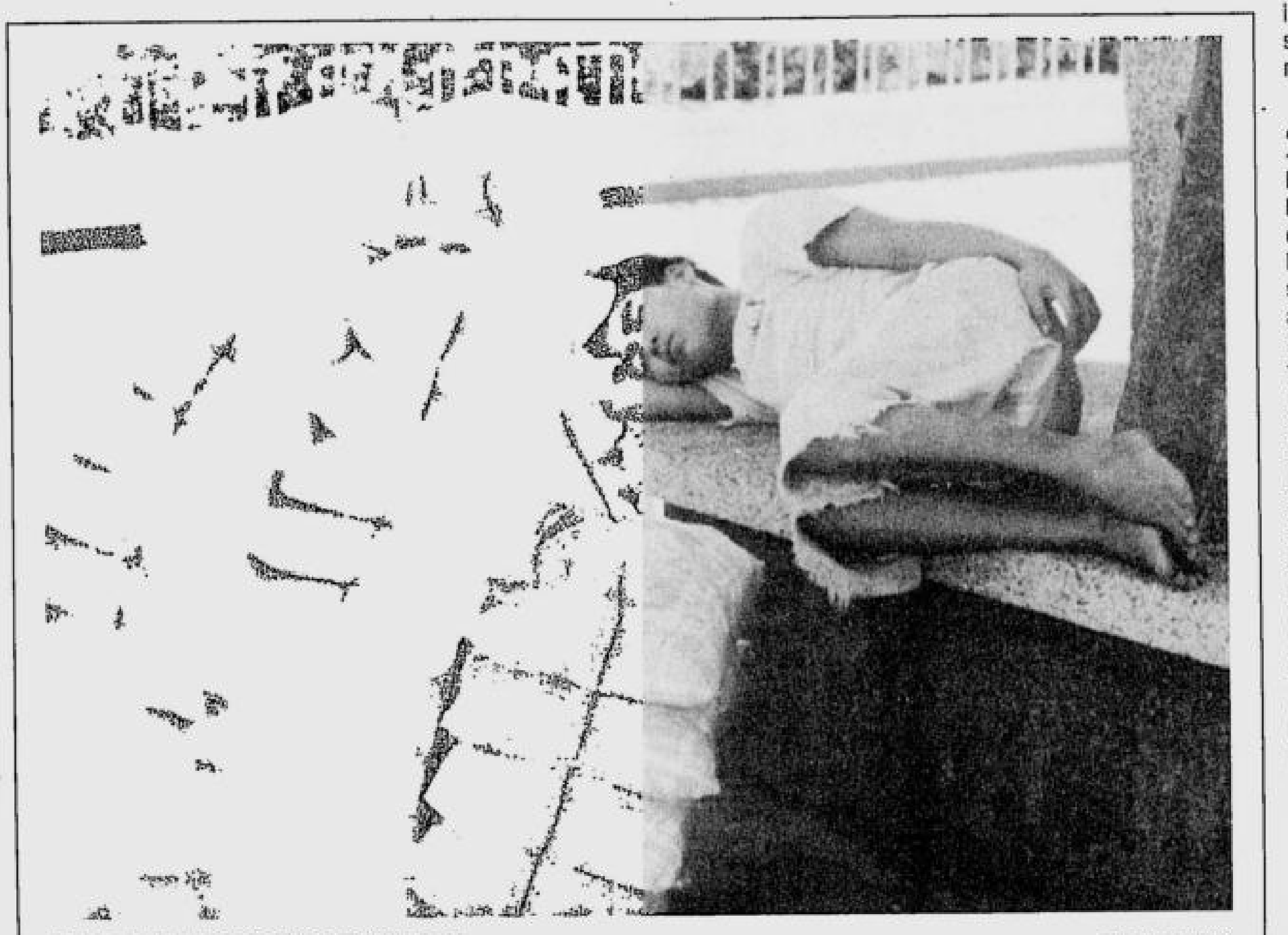
In an administrative complaint, Camaligan Vice Mayor Ma. Belen A. Paura alleged that Prado made it appear that an official receipt numbering 1267911Y dated March 25, 2002 had been issued by Barangay Dugcal Treasurer Felipe Llano as evidence of his (Prado's) receipt of the check amounting to P150,000 from the provincial government, when no receipt had been issued to the provincial government.

She also accused Prado of allegedly imitating the signature of Llano in the receipt.

Paura further accused Prado of estafa for allegedly misappropriating the amount for his personal gains and for violation of Section 3(e) of Republic Act 3019 for allegedly causing undue injury to the government.

In the complaint, the provincial government granted financial assistance to Barangay Dugcal in Camaligan for the construction of streetlights.

A disbursement voucher was then processed payable to the barangay treasurer of Dugcal. *Alan Pelayo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



PILLOW MAN (DIS)COMFORT BEN MOSES EBREO

This man, who sells pillows, does not need his wares to sleep comfortably wherever his feet take him, this time on a pavement in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya.

'Lumad' folk claim vigilante group harassing them

DAVAO CITY—Lumad communities in Talaingod, Davao del Norte claimed that the military-backed anti-communist Alamara vigilante group was harassing them because of their refusal to join its crusade against New People's Army (NPA) rebels in the area.

In a recent dialogue with Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario, Ata-Manobo leaders in the province said Alamara members have been threatening to execute them.

The Ata-Manobos said because of the harassments, some 500 families living in remote villages of the province had been displaced.

They said the anti-communist group was accusing them of being NPA supporters because they would not join it.

The tribal leaders told Del Rosario they do not want to become members of Alamara because they do not want to anger the rebels. They added they wanted to live in peace.

Jake Dumagan of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) in Davao del Norte said Alamara members should be held liable if the allegations were true.

Del Rosario ordered the NCIP to conduct an investigation into the allegations and to help the tribal communities in the province against human rights abuses.

Talaingod town Mayor Pilar Libayao said she had no knowledge of the reported abuses committed by the Alamara.

But she pledged to conduct an investigation.

The lumad leaders said they were not hoping Libayao would make true her commitment because she was a known supporter of the vigilante group.

Suspected NPA rebels gunned down her husband, former Talaingod Mayor Jose Libayao, a staunch anti-communist, on Sept. 5, 2001. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NFA not 'rationing' rice in Tarlac, clarifies exec

THE NATIONAL Food Authority in Tarlac clarified that the local NFA office is not rationing rice but giving allocation to accredited outlets as part of the normal distribution strategies of the agency.

In a news release, NFA-Tarlac Manager Serafin M. Manalili said "the allocations of 15 bags per week to accredited retailers in barangays and 30 bags per week for rice retailers in the public markets (are) based on the provincial July distribution target of 60,000 bags. This is equivalent to 20% of the total consumption requirement of the province.

Manalili assured Tarlaqueños that the NFA will continuously distribute cheap rice through its accredited outlets.

NFA-Tarlac is receiving imported rice from Ilocos, and two vessels of rice will arrive in Subic to augment Central Luzon's rice inventory.

Aside from the accredited individual outlets in the barangays and public markets, NFA-Tarlac has established Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke (BGP) in all municipal public markets. These outlets exclusively sell good quality NFA rice at P16 per kilo.

"Our office is regularly undertaking monitoring of rice supply and prices in the different major markets in the province to continuously assess market situation.

Based on the latest report there is ample supply of commercial rice whose price ranges from P18 to P22 per kilo.

Former Malacañang worker meets President in Iloilo

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ESMEJARDA MA. DIOSA LABISTE

TABIAK, Igbaras, Iloilo—Clutching a faded sepia photograph of himself and the late President Diosdado Macapagal, and a barangay resolution to build a footbridge, Salvador Esmejarda took his place among well-dressed politicians, spick-and-span military officials and government officials, who awaited the arrival of President Macapagal-Arroyo in this village in the morning of July 16.

Esmejarda, 70, was not an elected official, but he could not help feeling officious. He was chosen by two villages to hand a resolution for a construction of a footbridge linking barangays Catiringan to Jovelar separated by Tangyan River. He lives in Barangay Jovelar.

He was asked to do it because he once knew the President, when she was about 12 and growing up in Malacañang Palace, when her father was president from 1961 to 1965.

Esmejarda worked as audio-visual operator-technician from 1956 to 1976, serving four presidents and their families. He started with President Ramon Magsaysay (1953-1957), then President Carlos Garcia (1957 to 1961), Macapagal and finally President Ferdinand Marcos (1965-1986).

Esmejarda resigned in 1976 and joined the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center and retired ten years later to farm.

In Malacañang, Esmejarda said he particularly liked operating the movie projector for the presidents and their families. That had endeared him to them, especially the presidential children, like Ms Macapagal and her siblings.

Esmejarda remembered Ms Macapagal as a bubbly girl who would run to him and ask him to operate a movie projector for her and her friends.

"*Mabu-ot sya, kabalo makigbagay*. (She was good-natured and treated people well)," Esmejarda said of the young Ms Macapagal.

Along with the old photograph are some faded identification cards that Esmejarda kept as mementos of his years in Malacañang.

He said the two barangays badly need a footbridge. During heavy rains, the flood cuts off Catiringan from Jovelar, preventing school children and employees from going to school and work. A resolution signed by Catirigan's barangay chief, Lorenzo Ela, said their 20 percent development fund of some P70,000 is not sufficient to build a hanging footbridge that would cost P500,000.

Ela signed the resolution along with Natividad Eusuya, the barangay secretary, last July 5, ten days before the presidential visit.

When President Macapagal arrived, Esmejarda had a chance to go near her and present the resolution. Since reporters had been banned from the venue where she met the local and national officials before the meeting inside Tabiak Elementary School, the reunion between Esmejarda and the president was not covered by the media.

But Igbaras Mayor James Esmeralda said a video captured the meeting when Esmejarda fished out the photograph from a brown envelope and the President spent a moment looking at it and exchanged a few words with him. Then he gave her the resolution of barangay Catirigan and the mayor overheard the President saying she would see what she could do.

Population, health, environment training for nongov't groups, LGUs

AN EMERGING field in development programming called Population, Health and Environment (PHE, will be given a boost this month, when development managers from various nongovernment organizations (NGO) in the country and some local government units and government agencies meet for four days in Iloilo City for a Trainers' Training starting July 31.

The activity is an offshoot of an earlier training that focused on designing and communicating policies and linked population, health and environment, which was held in Antipolo City last year.

The training and the forthcoming one in the Visayas are jointly sponsored by the Washington-based Population Reference Bureau (PRB) and the Philippine Field Office of Save the Children/US.

PRB is an NGO established in 1928 and has since been regarded as the leader in providing timely and objective information on US and international population trends and their implications.

ROUNDUP

Bad food downs 91

BAGUIO CITY—Food served during a wake in San Isidro, Abra downed 91 mourners, reports gathered by the INQUIRER said. Most of the victims live in Barangays Tabuan and Langbaba, according to a Philippine Information Agency report. Six of them were reported in critical condition due to nausea and weakness. But a report from the Department of Health recorded only 50 cases under medical watch. The DOH said the cases were classified as a "diarrhea outbreak," but laboratory analysis had not yet determined the particular substance that caused the illnesses. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

2nd most wanted

BAGUIO CITY—Police arrested the second most wanted person in the Cordillera after a brief firefight in La Paz, Abra on Saturday. Reports said the suspect, Luis Baruela, who is facing murder charges, fired at policemen sent to arrest him. The policemen fired back, hitting Baruela in the right knee. *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

'Jueteng' suspects held

BAGUIO CITY—Ten jueteng suspects were arrested in separate anti-illegal gambling operations in Penarubia and Bangued towns in Abra last week. Police and members of the anti-illegal gambling Task Force Jericho confiscated P3,330 in bet money from the suspects. Reports said five suspects were arrested in Barangay Riang in Penarubia and another five in Zone 1 in Bangued. *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

2 held for shabu

BAGUIO CITY—Police arrested two persons in Lagangilang, Abra for possessing shabu and unlicensed firearms. Recovered from suspects Caroline and George Sagudang were four grams of shabu worth P7,200. Also seized from them were a .45 cal handgun, a 5.56 cal. pistol and bullets. Police said the suspects failed to present the firearms' permits. *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Search for top scientist

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—The Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development has launched a search for the Most Outstanding Scientist/Researcher and Research Administrator (Pantas Award) and the Most Outstanding Research Institution (Tanglaw Award). A press announcement said the PCARRD grants these awards to "highly competent Filipinos and institutions that have contributed significantly to the advancement of Philippine agriculture, forestry and natural resources research and development. *Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

DENR warning

LEGAZPI CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Bicol has issued a warning against fake documents in shipping or transporting forest products. Bicol executive director Oscar M. Hamada said owners of transported logs should bring with them original copies of the documents to avoid confusion. *Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Nature park

CANLUBANG, Laguna—The Don Bosco College and Seminary will establish a forest and nature park within its compound. The proposed park includes a nature learning center, an ecology trail, a resting area, a camp-out area, and a butterfly farm, according to the Department of Science and Technology news release. The proposed project aims to preserve and protect the country's natural resources and develop a sense of responsibility for the environment. *Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Pneumonia kills inmate

IMUS, Cavite—A prisoner in Cavite died on Wednesday while being treated in a hospital, allegedly due to sickness related to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). Police identified the inmate as Norberto P. Villalon, resident of Barangay.Calumpang Cerca, Imus. He was jailed for murder. Villalon had been ill since last week and was rushed to the Trece Martires Hospital, where he eventually died. One of the physicians, who refused to be named, said hospital doctors were still waiting for the final results of the laboratory examinations to determine if Villalon's death was indeed due to SARS. *Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Wanted man nabbed

JUBAN, Sorsogon—Police arrested on Saturday the No. 5 most wanted person and alleged member of the Militante Gang operating in Barangay Buraburan in Bicol. Police led by SPO4 Alfredo Diaz and SPO1 Samuel Grula arrested Hueveno Villanueva alias Oscar, an ex-Army soldier, for frustrated murder. Villanueva is now in the custody of the Juban police for proper disposition after tactical interrogation. *Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Charged for ambush

GENERAL MARIANO ALVAREZ, Cavite—Four suspects, including a barangay captain, have been charged in court for the ambush-slay of five persons at Dagat-dagatan, Barangay Fe De Castro, police said. Criminally and civilly charged were ex-barangay captain Angelito Portales, Rolando Esplago, Dominador Flores and Eugenio Dela Cruz. The victims were Domingo Laguna, Danilo Segorio, Nonito Along, Carmelio Reyes and Ernesto Garcia. *Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 434 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Filipino seaman jailed in Iran appeals for help

ATIENZA

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A Filipino seaman, who has been languishing for more than five months without charges in a prison in Southern Iran, has appealed for help from the government for his release.

Damaso Atienza Jr., a resident of Barangay Macasandig, aired the appeal in three letters that he sent to his family. Iranian inmates at the Mashahr Prison in the city of Imam Khomeini smuggled out the letters for him.

In his first letter, Atienza said he was taken in for questioning, after his captain, Ioannis Pragalis of Greece, was murdered aboard the MV Free Atlas on Jan. 31.

The ship docked at Imam Khomeini to unload cargo.

Atienza, a second mate of the MV Free Atlas, said after Pragalis' body was found, police refused to release him and fellow Filipino seaman Rodrigo Endrina. Endrina was the prime suspect and Atienza was suspected of being the accomplice.

He said he was able to talk to a Philippine official only when jail authorities allowed him to place a call to the Philippine Embassy in Tehran.

During that call, Atienza said consul Alexander Riosa informed him that Iranian authorities were waiting for the result of laboratory tests in connection with the murder before deciding on charging or freeing him.

Atienza said all he wanted was to get out of jail pending the filing of the charges.

He maintained his innocence.

Atienza said he suspected that some inmates at the Mashahr Prison were responsible for the death of Pragalis.

"I learned in prison that some inmates would render services to ships unloading cargo in Khomeini. They are criminals and yet they are allowed to work," said Atienza in one of his letters.

In a letter to the Manila-based Skippers United Pacific Inc., Atienza's agency, Migrant Workers Affairs Undersecretary Petronila Garcia on July 23 said she already requested the Philippine Embassy in Tehran to help Atienza.

Grace Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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A SLAUGHTER is taking place IN OUR MIDST

Yet the ARROYO Administration chooses to remain SILENT.

Is it really that CLUELESS about what is going on?

On September 9-14, 2003, the World Trade Organization (WTO) will hold its Fifth Ministerial in Cancun, Mexico. Today, few would dispute the assertion that the WTO is the most inequitable multilateral agreement that the Philippines has entered into. Few would contradict the claim made on July 1, 2003 by a Philippine government official at a session of the WTO's Committee of Agriculture in Geneva that as a result of the country's adherence to the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture,

> "Our agricultural sectors that are strategic to food and livelihood security and rural employment have already been destabilized as our small producers are being slaughtered by the gross unfairness of the international trading environment. Even as I speak, our small producers are being slaughtered in our own markets, even the more resilient and efficient are in distress."

Disconcerting Silence

In Manila, however, there is deafening silence.

There is no talk of the crisis of agriculture in the summits of government.

There is no commitment to maintain the quota on the imports of rice, on which two million rice farmers are dependent for their survival. Nor is there is a clear stand not to sacrifice public services in the vague name of service trade liberalization.

There is no effort on the part of the authorities to reject and campaign against the Harbinson draft for a new WTO Agreement on Agriculture, which would demand even greater market access for massively subsidized developed country exports like rice, corn, meat, and vegetables to developing countries like the Philippines. This would be the nail on the coffin of our agricultural sector, which employs two-thirds of the labor force and accounts for 40 per cent of the gross domestic product.

Nor is there any effort to inform and consult with industry leaders and trade unions on the effects of any service sector liberalization, which, could lead to job-displacing realignment and consolidation of industries in the hands of a few multinationals.

Instead of preparing the country to resist the greater demands to flood our economy with highly subsidized agricultural products and surplus industrial goods from the US, EU, and other rich countries, instead of forging national resistance to moves that would create more agrarian refugees, and urban poor, more unemployed Filipinos, and more political destabilization—

¤ The President appears clueless that the Cancun Ministerial is coming up in less than two months' time.

¤ The Secretary of Agriculture flies off to Sacramento, California, where he is presented as the supporter of US agribusiness' efforts to flood the Philippines and the world with genetically modified foods (GMO's) otherwise known as "Frankenfoods."

¤ The Secretary of Trade and Industry refuses to participate in open Congressional hearings on the Philippine government negotiating strategy for Cancun, in line with what seems to be the official line of *maximum non-transparency.*

¤ The NEDA Director General openly espouses liberalization changes in the Constitution and opening up of key service industries without any public consultation.

Nearly Everything is at Stake, and yet...

Agriculture, investment, government procurement, industrial tariffs, services, trade-related intellectual property rights—all of these critical areas of the economy will be on the table during the Fifth Ministerial of the WTO in Cancun. Our economic survival as a nation is at stake, yet the government has chosen to keep the country in the dark about its stand in each of these areas.

Is it because it is unprepared for the negotiations? Is it because it fears popular input into the country's negotiating positions? Is it because it is afraid of the popular outcry that would be elicited from an informed citizenry by a perceived sellout of the economic interests of the Philippines in Cancun?

Is the Arroyo administration clueless about the implications of Cancun? Or is its silence a sign of complicity with the authors of the tragedy engulfing Philippine agriculture and other sectors of the Philippine economy.

We ask the government: Tell the Filipino people how you plan to protect the economic interests of Filipino industrialists, farmers, workers, consumers, and citizens in Cancun. Tell the people how you will prevent a repeat in Cancun of the disaster inflicted on our our local businessmen and women, farmers and people by the WTO Uruguay Round. Instead of regarding civil society as a threat, see it as a partner in the defense of Philippine economic interests against unfair trade promoted by subsidized foreign interests.

AN INFORMED CITIZENRY IS THE BEST DEFENSE AGAINST THE SELLOUT OF THE NATIONAL INTEREST BY TIMID BUREAUCRATS, BLIND ADHERENTS OF LIBERALIZATION, AND THE HIGHLY PAID LOBBYISTS OF THE MASSIVELY SUBSIDIZED ECONOMIC INTERESTS FROM THE RICH ECONOMIES.

STOP THE NEW ROUND! COALITION

STOP THE NEW ROUND!
COALITION

STOP THE NEW ROUND COALITION *Organizations:*Action for Economic Reforms (AER), Akbayan! Citizens Party, Alliance of Progressive Labor, Alternate Forum for Research in Mindanao (AFRIM), AR Now!, Bayanihan International Solidarity Secretariat, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP), Center for Agrarian Reform, Empowerment and Transformation (CARET), Confederation of Independent Unions in the Public Sector (CIU), Focus on the Global South, Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC), Global Network-Philippines, Integrated Rural Development Foundation (IRDF), Kalayaan, Katapat, Kilusang Mangingisda (KM), Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (KPD), Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya (KME), Labor Education and Research Network (LEARN), Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Samahan sa Kanayunan (PKSK), Partnership for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development Services (PARRDS), Peoples' Global Exchange (PGX), Philippine Peasant Institute (PPI), Philippine Network of Rural Development Institutes (Philnet-RDI), Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM), Sanlakas, Sarilaya, Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE), SNR! CEBU, Tambuyog Development Center (TDC), WomanHealth Philippines *Individuals:*Jessica Reyes-Cantos, Prof. Rene Ofreneo, Prof. Miriam Coronel Ferrer, Prof. Perlita Frago, Verna Dinah Viajar, Sharon Quinsaat *Endorsers:* Convergence, Greenpeace-Southeast Asia, Philippine NGO Liaison Committee on Food Security and Fair Trade (PNLC), La Liga Policy Institute, IGTN-Asia/WAGI, Rural Enlightenment and Accretion in Philippine Society (REAPS, Inc.) Sandigan at Ugnayan ng mga Magbubukid sa Pilipinas (SUMAPI).

* For more information about Stop the New Round! Coalition and its activities, please call 433-1673/433-0899 or email at stopthenewround-philippines@yahoogroups.com.

ADVT.

Forfeiture cases filed ...

From page A1

Aquino said the forfeiture cases would not prejudice the filing of claims by people who were victimized by the defendants.

"It will give a chance to aggrieved parties to show they are entitled to these funds to the satisfaction of the court," he said.

The council has also frozen accounts linked to other criminal activities like kidnapping and drug trafficking.

The 448 frozen bank accounts were covered by 51 freeze orders, the number of which should increase as soon as the Council finishes its investigation of more than 2,000 reports.

At least 61 cases of money laundering and extension of freeze orders have been filed in various trial courts, the Court of Appeals, the Ombudsman and the Department of Justice.

"By filing these cases, we are proving that we are effectively implementing the Anti-Money Laundering Act and its amendments. We want to show the world that the Philippines is serious and unrelenting in the fight against money laundering," Aquino said.

The Philippines has remained in the Financial Action Task Force's list of countries uncooperative in the global fight against money laundering.

In the latest FATF advisory issued in June, Manila remained on its list of non-cooperative countries and territories (NCCT), together with Indonesia, Burma, Cook Islands, Egypt, Guatemala, Nauru, Nigeria and Ukraine. Taken off the FATF blacklist were Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The Philippines has to undertake four steps to be delisted by the FATF. Manila has already complied with one requirement so far and that was to pass a legislation to counter money laundering.

The three other requirements are the submission of the implementation plan, a visit by the FATF Asia Pacific Group, and an evaluation to determine whether the first three steps were met.

The Philippines was able to beat the FATF's March 15 deadline when Congress passed the amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act. Failure to do so would have forced members of the task force to impose economic sanctions on the country's foreign financial transactions.

Aquino said the country had been trying to comply with the requirements for delisting of the Paris-based FATF after Congress amended Republic Act 9196.

Members of the congressional oversight committee are scheduled to meet on July 30 to officially approve the newly drafted implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the amended Anti-Money Laundering Act (Amla).

Aquino said the council was hoping the Philippines would be removed from the FATF list when the task force meets in October. The more realistic delisting schedule, however, is February next year, he said.

But the House of Representatives has yet to act on the IRR of the amended Amla, according to Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

In a statement, Magsaysay, chair of the Senate oversight committee on the implementation of Amla, said his panel had already transmitted to the House the IRR of Republic Act No. 9160, the amended Amla, as the majority of his members had already signed it even before Congress adjourned in June.

Magsaysay said he already wrote Aquino a letter informing him about the status of the IRR.

"As of this date, we are still awaiting our House counterpart to return the IRR to the Senate with the necessary signatures affixed thereto," Magsaysay said in his letter.

FATF president Jochen Sanio earlier wrote Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura and asked the Philippines to submit the implementation plan for the amended Amla to Noriaki Mizuno, chair of the FATF review group on Asia and the Pacific.

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Ruben Carranza said the matter was not yet closed, the PCGG would not confirm whether an investigation of the account was still on going.

But he confirmed that the youngest child of the late dictator had a bank account in Germany.

In early 2001, the INQUIRER reported that Marcos-Araneta had a $13.2-billion account with Union Bank of Switzerland and that in February that year, she tried to transfer part of the money to Deutsche Bank in Dusseldorf, Germany.

The transfer did not push through and the Deutsche Bank account was closed.

Bunye said the Supreme Court decision on the Marcos deposits held in escrow in the Philippine National Bank was among the major developments last week that were unfortunately overshadowed by the escape of Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi from his maximum security cell in Camp Crame.

A week before the Supreme Court decision on the Marcos deposits, it handed over ownership of United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) to the government.

Danding man

A group of farmers claimed that San Miguel Corp. president Ramon Ang, the right hand man of Marcos crony Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., used their properties in Batangas as collateral to obtain P2 billion in loans from the sequestered UCPB.

In a statement, the Task Force Baha-Talibayog (TFBT), a coalition of the farmer lot-owners and NGOs, said Ang used 507.9 hectares of the 807.9-hectare property in Barangay Baha and Talibayog in Calatagan, Batangas, as collateral to secure a loan from UCPB.

The group said the property had been awarded to 312 farmers under Presidential Decree No. 27 or Operation Land Transfer.

The TFBT cited a ruling by the Provincial Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (Parad), which stated that the Calatagan lands were not "erroneously covered" by Republic Act No. 6657 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) after Asturias Chemical Industries Inc. claimed that the property was a quarry site for clinker production. This is why Ang was not able to submit the titles on the six Calatagan lots more than three years after obtaining the Asturias loan.

Ang borrowed P2 billion from UCPB in 1999 for Asturias to build a cement factory in Batangas that was expected to produce 3.6 million metric tons a year by 2003.

Agricultural land

The TFBT said that even the proposed site of the cement plant, which was supposed to start operations this year, had been classified as agricultural and not mineral lands.

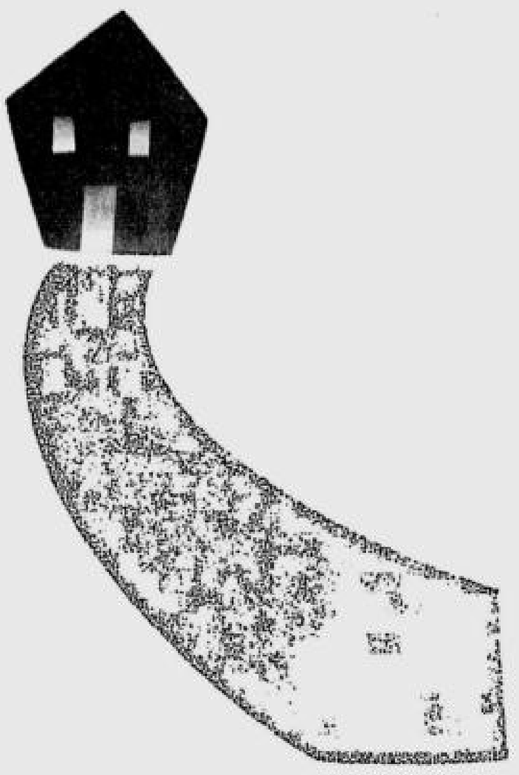
The Batangas cement plant was supposed to be a joint-venture with Lucky Star Holdings Inc., another Ang-controlled firm, which had obtained a P1.4-billion loan from UCPB to build a cement plant in Pangasinan six months before Asturias secured its loan.

Both cement plants have apparently been scrapped as Lucky Star has instead focused on expanding the operations of Northern Consolidated Cement, the North Luzon cement concern of Cojuangco.

The INQUIRER earlier reported that an in-house audit of UCPB loans documented P4.1 billion in loans granted to Asturias, Lucky Star and Skyssets Inc. although they had no track record of profitability. They also had insufficient collateral and doubtful prospects for repayment.

Ang has "strongly" denied that the loans (which he said totaled only P2.71 billion) were behest. "For it to be behest, it has to be a government bank and the intention from the start was not to repay the loans but to run away with the money. In our case we have religiously been paying interest and principal. The loans are over-collateralized," he said.

Gil Cabacungan Jr.



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4 BIR, BOC officials fail lifestyle check

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Salazar and Regional Director Lucien Sayuno, and Customs warehousing chief Manuel Valencia.

All four have been in government service for more than 20 years. Valencia has been with the Bureau of Customs for 36 years and Salazar for 40 years.

Abella did not answer his mobile phone. When the INQUIRER called his residence he was not home.

Sayuno's home number was not in service. Salazar and Valencia could not be reached as of press time.

Finance Assistant Secretary Emmanuel Bonoan, head of the CMIO, said more cases would be filed against corrupt officials from the two bureaus under the department in the coming days.

The BIR and BOC topped the Social Weather Stations survey of the most corrupt government agencies early this year.

Abella, 45, who teaches law at the University of the Philippines, declared P10.2 million in assets with liabilities of P1.7 million, according to the DOF. Among his assets are five subdivision lots in Novaliches, a cock farm in Norzagaray, Bulacan, called Strike Eagle Farm, and another lot in Marilao, Bulacan.

Undeclared was a P10-million property in upscale Xavierville, Loyola Heights, in Quezon City.

Abella has been with the BIR for 22 years and his monthly salary is P24,816.82, according to the DOF. From assistant commissioner of the Large Taxpayers' Unit, which collects 60 percent of the bureau's output, he was demoted to regional director of Quezon City in May.

The CMIO valued Abella's declared pieces of property at a minimum of P11 million. In his Statement of Assets and Liabilities, Abella placed the acquisition cost of the Norzagaray property at only P250,000, but evidence suggested that it was about P2 million.

With a monthly salary of P22,716, Salazar has declared P5.9 million in assets and P2.1 million in liabilities. Undeclared was Phoenix Printing Philippines, an unregistered printing company without a permit to operate. Despite being illegitimate, Phoenix owns several pieces of property.

Head of BIR union

Salazar, 64, is the president of the BIR Revenue Employees Association, a group reportedly opposing reforms in the revenue agency.

The group made life too difficult for then BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez, proponent of drastic reforms, that he was forced to resign in August last year.

Salazar also owns a big house and lot in Tungko, Quezon City, although perhaps not as expensive as the Ayala-Alabang residence of Sayuno, regional director of Makati.

Twenty-two years in office, Sayuno, 53, has a declared net worth of P3.3 million. The amount does not include three companies, a house and lot in Ayala-Alabang, 12 luxury vehicles, and memberships in four golf and country clubs. He receives a monthly salary of P22,521.

Sayuno's "good performance" in San Pablo City, however, earned him a promotion in May when he was transferred to Makati.

Dollar account

With a monthly salary of P21,216.92, Valencia, 61, had declared assets of P1.5 million, a fraction of his unstated $3.8 million (about P200 million) in a dollar account. He also owns five lots in Parañaque City and a rice farm in General Trias, Cavite, worth about P1.5 million.

A source said Valencia belonged to a family of jewelers. As BOC warehousing chief, he had access to quite a collection of jewelry.

In May, the CMIO charged Assistant Regional Director Aguinaldo Miravalles, Assistant Revenue District Officer Kamil Bajunaid, and former RDO Godofredo San Jose Jr. with falsification of employment documents in the Office of the Ombudsman.

They were found to have falsified official records by advancing their birth dates to allow them to stay in office beyond their retirement.

"By making false statements and through false pretenses, these officials managed to convince judicial authorities or the Civil Service Commission to order a change of their birth dates on their official records, allowing them to stay in office longer to reap the rewards of their illegal acts," Bonoan said.

If found guilty, these officials would be sacked and their illegally acquired wealth forfeited in favor of the government. They also face imprisonment of six years and permanent disqualification from office.

"We started investigating the lifestyles of the BIR and Customs officials seven months ago, using a systematic information gathering," Bonoan said.

"We hope to continue making progress in these efforts to strengthen the government's revenue collection and to make sure that every tax collected goes to the State and not to the pocket of some corrupt officials," he added.

Among 500 respondents from the country's top 1,500 corporations polled by SWS, 68 percent said they believed that the BIR was corrupt, while 66 percent felt the same way about the BOC.

126 BIR men face sanctions

OF THE 11,000 employees of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, at least 126 are facing sanctions and possibly dismissal for involvement in irregularities, including graft and corrupt practices, according to the Department of Finance.

Camacho said of the 126 personnel recommended for sanction or dismissal, 41 cases were related to graft and corruption.

"We are serious in purging the ranks and ridding government agencies of corruption. We hope the public would also assist us by being vigilant and watchful of public servants who abuse their position," he said.

The DOF is urging the public to call its hotline 404-17-74 to 76 to report abuses by public employees and officials.

The BIR is tasked with collecting about 80 percent of the state's annual revenues, but corruption has slowed its performance through the years leading to a widening government deficit. It was only recently that its collections have been meeting and even exceeding the targets. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Al-Ghozi escape gives JI fresh lease on life

THE ESCAPE of Indonesian bomb-maker Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi has not only dealt the country's reputation a severe blow. Analysts said it has also given Southeast Asia's Jemaah Islamiya terror group a fresh lease on life.

The 31-year-old Al-Ghozi is expected to shuttle among the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand—his former haunts—to help reorganize JI's hit squads and activate sleeper cells in Southeast Asia, intelligence officials in the region told Agence France Presse.

AL-GHOZI

"If you look at it from the leadership angle and his organizing capabilities, Al-Ghozi's escape is a much-needed morale booster for JI, especially at this critical juncture when they are feeling the heat from relentless counterterrorism campaigns," an official said.

Al-Ghozi has admitted being a bombmaker for the JI, believed to be the Southeast Asian chapter of the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden. JI has been using violent means in its bid to establish a pan-Islamic state across the region.

Indonesian Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, 64, the alleged spiritual head of the JI who is charged with trying to topple the Indonesian government through terrorism, is in detention in Jakarta and facing treason charges.

Another Indonesian, Hambali, the JI operational chief and Asia's most wanted man, is believed to be hiding in Thailand, intelligence officials say.

With Bashir incarcerated and Hambali on the run, Al-Ghozi should be able to reestablish contacts with the JI network quickly and shepherd its operations, the analysts said.

"Al-Ghozi is a senior figure in the JI and considering his operational expertise, this is going to be very problematic" for counterterrorism, said Andrew Tan, a security analyst at the Singapore-based Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies.

"Even before his escape, JI's network remained active," Tan said.

"With Al-Ghozi now at large, together with other senior JI members such as Hambali, the potential for fresh attacks around the region remains," said Bruce Gale, a political risk analyst with Hill and Associates Risk Consultancy (S) Pte. Ltd.

Although JI activities are traditionally confined to Malaysia, Indonesia, southern Thailand and Mindanao, Gale said the pattern of arrests in more recent times suggested it "may now be trying to form alliances with other militant groups in the Indochina region, and possibly even Bangladesh."

Tan said only 140 of the more than 500 JI members who trained in terrorism in Afghanistan and Southeast Asian camps, notably in the Philippines and Indonesia, had been arrested.

"Even their second- and third-ranking operatives can plan bomb attacks autonomously," he added.

Rohan Gunaratna, author of "Inside Al-Qaida: Global Network of Terror," said Al-Ghozi was capable of swiftly launching terrorist attacks.

"He is the most experienced, the best trained and the most well motivated," Gunaratna said.

"He is the one man who can put together an operation in such a short time. He knows how to purchase weapons, he knows how to put operations together, he knows security."

An intelligence official said Al-Ghozi could fit into Bashir's shoes although he was only about half his age. *AFP*

Police intelligence official linked to escape …

From page A1

cape in advance and that they had outside help."

Among the indications that the escape was well thought out, Lina said, was Al-Ghozi's sudden decision to have a haircut and a shave a day before he escaped. He added that with a new haircut and without his beard, Al-Ghozi would be difficult to identify.

But as early as Friday, Director Eduardo Matillano, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, already debunked the shave-and-a-haircut report, telling reporters it had started as a joke.

Police compound

Investigators said Al-Ghozi and two Abu Sayyaf detainees—Abdulmukim Ong Edris and Omar Opik Lasal—walked out of the IG compound between 3 and 5 a.m. on Monday.

"He arrived there at around that time," the IG source told the INQUIRER yesterday, referring to Galban. "When he noticed that there was someone at the guard house behind the gate, he asked the driver to switch off the lights and the motor."

The intelligence source could not tell how many companions Galban had with him in the Revo, but said the official was accompanied by at least one policewoman.

The Revo, the source said, could be the same vehicle recovered from a group of car thieves.

He said he had once driven the "stolen" vehicle when he and other IG officers accompanied Al-Ghozi and confessed terrorist Saifullah Muklis "Saifullah" Yunos to a hearing at the Department of Justice.

"It was a recovered vehicle yet they had been using it for official functions."

In a previous interview, Matillano said the CIDG was gathering more evidence against Galban and Supt. Carlito Natanawa, dismissed commander of the IG's old building, for the possible filing of criminal charges against them.

Matillano and his subordinate, Senior Supt. Don Montenegro, were not available for comment yesterday.

Monitoring report

Another vital detail in the investigation was the IG's "holding monitoring report," whose allegedly falsified contents became the basis for the filing of yet another criminal case against jail guard PO1 Ronald Palmares.

Palmares, 23, yesterday denied he had falsified entries in the report to make it appear that he had actually checked the cells of the fugitives when he had not.

The report, a copy of which was shown to the INQUIRER, had four columns: hours of inspection, names of inmates, and spaces for the signatures of Palmares and sergeant of the guards SPO3 Ruperto Principe.

Palmares said his shift on Sunday, July 13, was from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. the following day. He said he actually reported at 11 p.m. because he came from Nueva Ecija. He said he had told his superiors about the likely delay earlier in the afternoon.

"To my surprise," he told the INQUIRER, "when I reported, the entries from 11 p.m. till 8 a.m. the following day had already been signed by SPO3 Principe. He told me to sign as well."

About five hours later, Palmares said "utility boy" Abu Ali—the former Abu Sayyaf detainee who posted bail and then turned state witness—called the attention of SPO3 Ben Campo, a member of the IG's alert team who was then asleep, about the escape.

Principe had the keys

Palmares claimed that he proceeded to check but could not open the steel gates of the detention cells because only Principe had the keys.

As it turned out, Palmares needed no keys because the gates could be opened by simply pulling the latch out of the hole in the wall.

Lina said the escape could have been stopped had the guards acted immediately after the janitor reported the disappearance.

Lina said the guards did not pay any attention to Amor, the PNP-Intelligence Group janitor on duty, when he reported between 6 and 7 a.m. that Al-Ghozi, and the two suspected Abu Sayyaf members were no longer in their cell.

"It was only about 10:30 a.m. when the PNP-IG actually found out that Al-Ghozi had escaped," Lina said.

Tracker teams

Under intense pressure to find Al-Ghozi, PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. yesterday organized 63 "special tracker teams" to hunt the fugitives.

More than 5,000 troops from mobile groups and a battalion of the elite Special Action Force have been readied for actual operation in case any of the fugitives was spotted, Ebdane said in a news release.

Around 300,000 security guards nationwide have also been tapped to report any sighting of any of the three.

Ebdane's order came after President Macapagal-Arroyo rejected his offer to resign and instead assigned him to head a task force exclusively devoted to the hunt. *With a report from AFP*

'I can't be forever…

From page A1

"My morale is very low right now and I no longer see any bright future here."

Palmares said there were still many questions hounding him, including some whose answers may seem obvious: Was Al-Ghozi made to escape? Who freed him and why?

But the most pressing of all, he said, is personal: "Why am I caught in this controversy?"

After clearing his name, Palmares said he would probably put up a small business in Nueva Ecija, where his family lives.

That would mean abandoning a childhood dream and cutting off a budding family tradition started by his father Antonio who is a retired police intelligence officer.

Five-year plan

Palmares was not short of excitement when he earned his degree in criminology at La Fortuna College in Cabanatuan City last year.

He made sure he had money to finish the course by working as a salesman for a company distributing pharmaceutical items in Nueva Ecija for four years.

His goal then—to reach the rank of inspector in five years—seemed doable, given the awards and designations he enjoyed.

He was corps commander of La Fortuna's campus-based military program and hopes were high among his classmates that he would enter the Philippine National Police soon.

Palmares didn't fail them when he passed the licensure exam for criminology in May and was later accepted for training at the PNP's Intelligence Group.

There, he said he was chosen to serve as company commander, heading 109 other trainees from different parts of the country.

"It was very special to me," he said. "I took it as a sign that I could be destined for something special in the police force."

More feats came at the Cordillera Administrative Region Training School, where he stayed for a four-month police course earlier this year.

Diligence, obedience and what his peers called "natural leadership," he said, earned him the position of battalion commander, as well as awards for leadership and best police training.

In all the courses he attended, he said, what emerged most clearly was the principle that a PNP officer, and an intelligence trainee at that, should learn obedience above everything else. Follow first, ask questions later.

At the IG, considered the elite unit of the PNP, Palmares' first assignment was at the counter-intelligence office.

The job description was clear: Build dossiers of officers with shady backgrounds, assess threats on people seeking police protection.

All seemed well for the rookie officer until he was assigned to guard the cells of high-profile terrorists on the second floor of the IG's old building late last month.

No training

Despite having no training whatsoever in jail management, more so in guarding the most dangerous of inmates, Palmares said he asked no questions.

He said he did not raise questions when Al-Ghozi, the top bomb expert of Jemaah Islamiya, and Abu Sayyaf bandits Abdulrukim Ong Edris and Omar Opik Lasal were transferred from the better secured detention cells on the ground floor to the "structurally defective" jail on the second floor.

Or when his superiors made him sign the logbook even if the inmates had not actually been accounted for.

The answers, he said, are becoming clearer now, and he is breaking his silence.

"I'm willing to compromise the service," he said. "My family's name and dignity have been the casualties here. I can't go on forever labeled as the stupid guard who let Al-Ghozi escape."

Palace urged to discipline restive military officers

From page A1

tion, the military had existing mechanisms to ventilate concerns within the chain of command.

The officers, reportedly members of Philippine Military Academy Classes of 1994 and 1995, are reportedly conducting meetings among themselves and sounding out superior officers through "bull sessions."

Aside from issuing a manifesto, they are also receiving advice from opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan, a former Army colonel who staged bloody but ineffective coup attempts against the Aquino administration. In the December 1989 coup attempt alone, the casualty toll reached 99 dead and 570 wounded.

Pichay volunteered a piece of advice for the disgruntled officers: "Be patient."

"It is only under this administration that their concerns are being fully addressed," Pichay said. "It takes time before these (measures to address the concerns) are fully implemented so they just have to wait."

He recalled that in 2002, President Macapagal-Arroyo signed into law a bill that increased military salaries. The said law provided for three installments, the final one due in January 2004.

"Once this law is fully implemented, the government would be spending P6 billion a year to meet the salary increases of military men alone," Pichay said.

Pichay also said the government had made housing for soldiers one of its priorities, "although as we all know, housing development also takes time."

Pichay appealed to the professionalism of the young officers, calling on them to respect military processes and give due concern to the welfare of the nation in general.

"While their griping may not be considered yet as causing instability, this will induce demoralization in the military's rank and file," Pichay said. "The public is also alarmed that military officers are again conducting meetings like these."

But Pichay downplayed the possibility that the reported grousing by military officers would grow to a coup threat against the Macapagal administration. "There is no political issue that they can anchor their grievances on," he said.

Never heard?

The spokesperson of the Southern Command in Zamboanga City, the country's largest area command, said he had talked to some officers who belonged to PMA '94 and '95 and who were assigned in Mindanao, but "they (claimed they) never heard about this."

"We know that there were some complaints, but it's just natural in any organization. You cannot please everybody," Lt. Col. Renoir Pascua said.

Pascua said senior officers still needed to receive a directive from the Department of National Defense and the AFP chief of staff before they could start a formal investigation.

"Right now, what we can do is ask and inquire from the members of Classes 1994 and 1995 who are assigned here," he said.

Baguio dog wins award for heroism

From page A1

Dagul is the 40th awardee to be given the prestigious citation since the award was given by the North Shore Animal League of America and the pet magazine, Animal People, in March 1999 to recognize pet heroes.

The fourth awardee outside of the United States, Dagul will receive $500 (P26,715) for the award. Usually, an animal shelter or organization that helped the awardee receives the same amount.

Dagul's master, Wilmar Castillo, 17, was inside his house on Dominican Hill here on May 28 when the dog started barking incessantly.

Castillo was first irritated by the barking. When it became insistent, he opened the door, thinking a visitor was knocking.

He saw just in time the landslide about to swamp their house. He stepped out of the house, but Dagul was trapped. The landslide caused the house to turn upside down.

When Castillo returned the next day to get necessities from the house, he found his pet alive.

The Castillos are now living in the garage of former Benguet Gov. Andres Bugnosen's house, and Dagul's prize money is expected to help the family rebuild their house.

A Baguio-based organization nominated Dagul for the award upon the insistence of animal lovers who read the INQUIRER story online.

Early winners

The first Lewyt awardee in 1999 was NeeNee, a former stray cat which saved her sleeping master from a fire in Idaho by licking his nose.

Noted Lewyt awardees include December 2002 awardee Ophelia, a cat which saved her master and 58 other cats from a fire that engulfed their animal shelter. Ophelia died from the fire.

In October 2001, the Lewyt award was given to the 300 search-and-rescue and cadaver-finding dogs that went on duty at New York City and Arlington, Virginia, after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Other awardees outside the US include March 2001 winner Joke, a German shepherd who guarded the mansion of the US ambassador to Belgrade even when his masters had already left the country.

Joke's dogged loyalty kept the mansion safe from intruders even if he was stoned by angry crowds.

Dorabella, a cat from Algeria, helped her master, an old woman who suffered a heart attack, by knocking over her pills from a counter so the woman could reach it.

Dorabella then went to her master's doctor and cried incessantly until the doctor followed the cat to help her master. Dorabella was the April 2001 Lewyt winner.

Simba, a cat from New Zealand, saved a 15-year-old teenager from smoke suffocation by banging on the door and walls of the house of the teener's parents. Simba was the May 2002 awardee.

Who wants to live forever?

From page A1

day enable humans to last decades beyond what is now seen as the natural limit of the human life span.

"I think we are knocking at the door of immortality," said Michael Zey, a Montclair State University business professor and author of two books on the future. "I think by 2075 we will see it, and that's a conservative estimate."

Zey spoke on the sidelines of the annual conference of the World Future Society, a group that ponders how the future will look across many different aspects of society.

In a presentation at the meeting in San Francisco, Donald Louria, a professor at New Jersey Medical School in Newark, said advances in manipulating cells and genes, as well as nanotechnology, would make it possible for humans to live in the future beyond what had been possible in the past.

500 years?

"What was science fiction a decade ago is no longer science fiction," Louria said.

"There is a dramatic and intensive push so that people can live from 120 to 180 years," he said. "Some have suggested that there is no limit and that people could live to 200 or 300 or 500 years."

Outside the conference, many scientists who specialize in aging are skeptical of such claims and say the human body is just not designed to last past about 120 years. Even with healthier lifestyles and less disease, these scientists say failure of the brain and other organs will eventually condemn all humans.

"These people spout off as though a large part of the population is going to be able to do something like this. It's just way beyond reality," said Thomas Perls, who leads the New England Centenarian Study, the largest such analysis of the oldest of the old. "It's just pure science fiction."

"We are fast approaching what our bodies are capable of achieving," Perls said in a telephone interview. "To get even the average person to be 100 or to get them to 180 is like trying to get a space shuttle to Pluto."

Disabilities

Any dramatic extension of the human life span would depend on altering the onset of disabilities that accompany the aging process by changing one's genetic makeup, said Harvey Cohen, director of the Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development at Duke University Medical Center.

"It's certainly unlikely any time in the near future," Cohen said in an interview. "Sure, there is a possibility, but there is no data currently available to suggest ways that would happen."

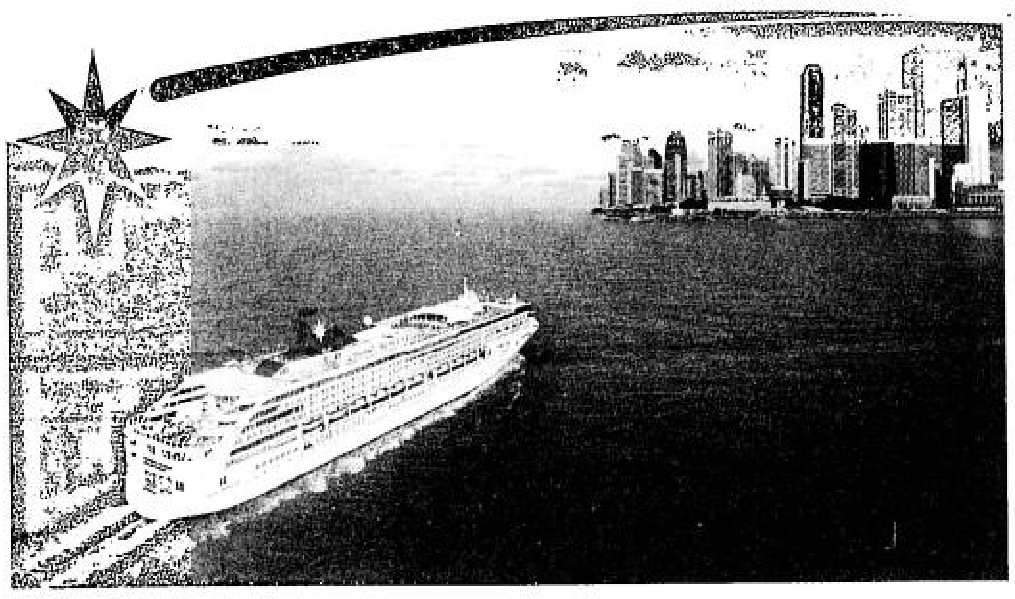
Scientists also differ on what kind of life the super aged might live.

"It remains to be seen if you pass the threshold of say 120, you know; could you be healthy enough to have good quality of life?" said Leonard Poon, director of the University of Georgia Gerontology Center.

"Currently, people who could get to that point are not in good health at all," he added.

Poon, who leads a study of more than 150 centenarians in Georgia, cited the case of Jeanne Louise Calment of France, the oldest person on record who died at age 122 in 1997.

"At 122, she was fairly debilitated. I visited her when she was 119 in France and at that time, she was pretty much blind and having very much difficulty hearing," he said. *Reuters*



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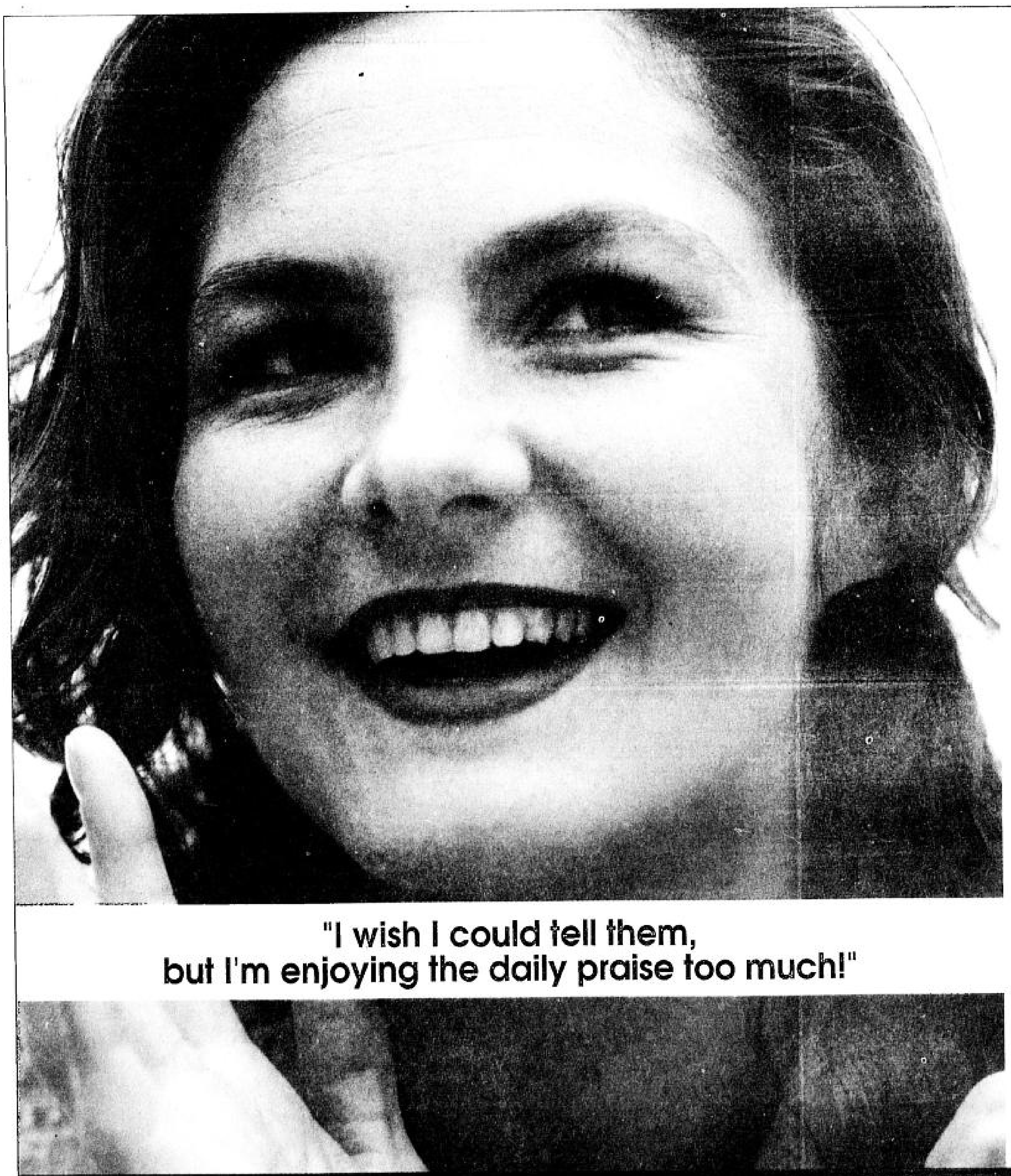
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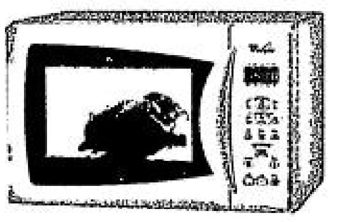

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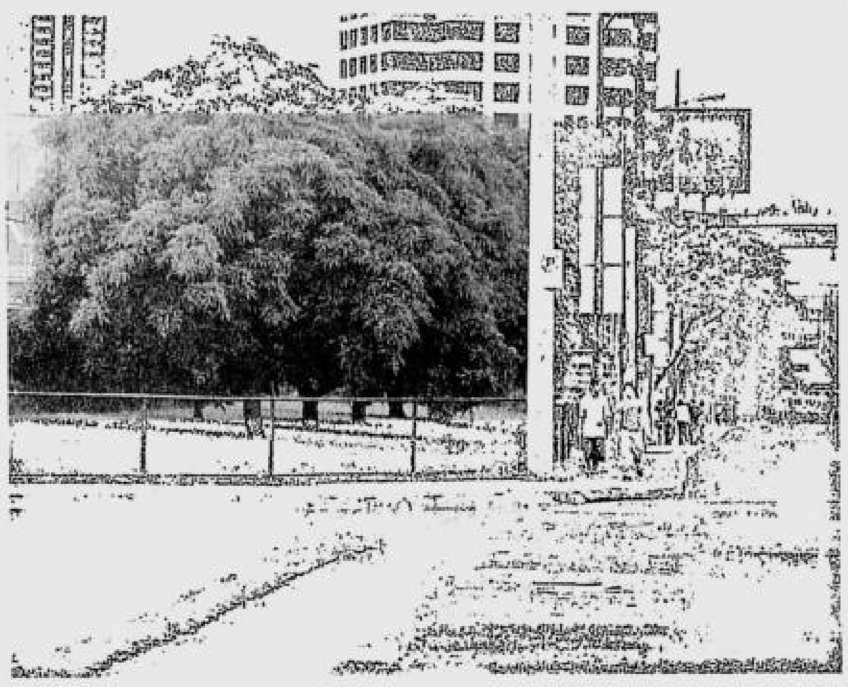
Court stops MMDA demolition of park

By Nini Valera

A QUEZON City Regional Trial Court has issued a temporary restraining order against the Metro Manila Development Authority to stop it from demolishing the perimeter wall of the Corinthian Gardens Subdivision along Edsa from Ortigas Avenue to White Plains Avenue in Murphy, Quezon City.

But Judge Rose Mari Alonzo-Legasto of the QC RTC Branch 99 has required the Corinthian Gardens to post a P1-million bond to pay for whatever damage the MMDA might sustain because of the TRO.

The TRO stemmed from a complaint filed by the Corinthian Gardens Association, Inc. against MMDA chair Bayani Fernando, MMDA general manager Robert Nacianceno, Engineering-In-Charge of the Clearing Group, Task Force Edsa, Rafael Moran, and several John Does.



RESIDENTS of Corinthian Gardens are bent on protecting this piece of greenery along Edsa from MMDA's demolition team. RUDY ESPERAS

CGAI lawyer Antonio Pastelero said the final outcome of this case would have "far reaching implications on all subdivisions in the country."

In the complaint, the CGAI alleged that the MMDA had wanted to take over a strip of land adjacent to the sidewalk on Edsa between Ortigas and White Plains Avenues in Quezon City, which the CGAI owned.

The CGAI said it had developed the 11,000 square meter property in question into a botanical park, wherein several varieties of trees had been planted.

It said the botanical park has been cultivated for over 25 years and has been serving as a "breathing space" for homeowners in the subdivision.

The CGAI said the botanical park also protected the residents against the noise and air pollution outside the subdivision, and from prowlers and thieves.

The MMDA had written the CGAI a letter dated May 20, 2003 stating that it "was now in the process of improving Edsa" and had surveyed the road right of way along the entire stretch of highway.

The survey showed that the perimeter wall surrounding Corinthian Gardens "reduced the width of the set back from the curb," said the letter.

The MMDA gave CGAI seven days to remove the double wall or the MMDA "shall be constrained to remove the structure."

The CGAI said in its complaint that the MMDA was taking over the property under the "contention that all open spaces of all privately owned subdivisions, whether used as parks, roads, playgrounds, etc. belong to the public."

In another letter dated June 4, 2003 to the CGAI, the MMDA said the removal of the wall was justified by Sec. 2, paragraph 1 of P.D. 1216, which states that "the owner of a subdivision shall provide adequate roads, alleys and sidewalks. For subdivision projects, one hectare or more, the owner-developer shall reserve 30 percent of the gross areas of open spaces, those areas reserved for parks, shall be non-alienable public lands and non-buildable."

But the CGAI claimed it had found out that the MMDA intended to convert the property it would appropriate into parking spaces for buses plying the Edsa route.

The CGAI also asked the court to order the MMDA to pay P1 million as exemplary damages and P1 million as actual damages and attorney's fees.

Republic of the Philippines

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CENTER

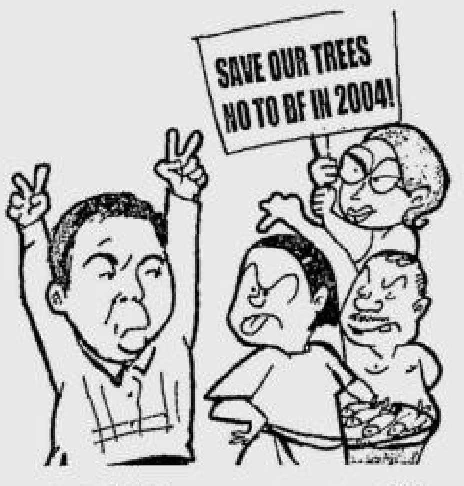
Department of Labor and Employment

New Schedule of Fees

Pursuant to the Governing Board Resolution No. 2001-11-009 dated November 23, 2002, the revised service fees/charges of the Occupational Safety and Health Center per schedule below are hereby adopted.

This will take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication.

Particulars	Rate
ENVIRONMENT CONTROL DIVISION	
I. PHYSICAL FACTORS	
• fee per workarea	
1. Noise	
- Direct Indication	200.00
- Octave Band Analysis	250.00
2. Heat	250.00
3. Humidity	100.00
4. Illumination	130.00
5. Vibration	1,200.00
6. Radiation (per company)	3,000.00
II. DUST	
• fee per workarea	
1. Total/Respirable Dust Concentration	
- Low Volume Sampling	450.00
- With Data Logger	600.00
- Personal Sampling	350.00
- High Volume Sampling	400.00
2. Dust Sizing	350.00
3. Silica and Mineral Dust by XRD	2,500.00
4. Asbestos	800.00
III. ORGANIC SOLVENTS	
1. Acetonitrile	1,800.00
2. Carbon Disulfide	800.00
3. Alcohol I	
- Methanol	1,800.00
- Ethanol	1,600.00
- Isopropyl Acolhol	1,600.00
- Tert-Butyl Alcohol	1,600.00
4. Alcohol II	
- Isobutyl Alcohol	1,600.00
- n-butyl Alcohol	1,600.00
- n-propyl Alcohol	1,600.00
- Sec-butyl Alcohol	1,600.00
5. Aromatic Hydrocarbon	
- Benzene	1,600.00
- Cumene	1,600.00
- Ethyl Benzene	1,600.00
- Napthalene	1,600.00
- Styrene	1,600.00
- Toluene	1,600.00
- Xylene	1,600.00
6. Hydrocarbon	
- Cyclohexane	1,600.00
- n-Heptane	1,600.00
- n-Octane	1,600.00
- n-pentane	1,600.00
- Methyl Cyclohexane	1,600.00
- n-hexane	1,600.00
7. Ketone	
- Acetone	1,600.00
- Cyclohexanone	1,600.00
- 2-Pentanone	1,600.00
- 2-Hexanone	1,600.00
- Methyl Ethyl Ketone	1,600.00
- Methyl Isobutyl Ketone	1,600.00
8. Halogenated Hydrocarbon	
- Carbon Tetrachloride	1,800.00
- Chlorobenzene	1,800.00
- Chloroform	1,800.00
- 1,2- Dichloroethane	1,800.00
- 1,2-Dichloroethylene	1,800.00
- 0-Dichorobenzene	1,800.00
- P-Dicholorobenzene	1,800.00
- 1, 1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	1,800.00
- Tetrachloroethane	1,800.00
- Trichloroethylene	1,800.00
- Dichloromethane	1,800.00
9. Other Organic Compounds	1,600.00
- Ethers	
- Esters (ethyl acetate, butyle acetate)	
10. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)	1,800.00
IV. GASES	
1. Mercury Vapor	420.00
2. Hydrogen Sulfide	500.00
3. Carbon Monoxide	700.00
4. Oxygen	500.00
5. Combustible Gases	400.00
6. Other Gases (detector tubes)	450.00
7. Sulfur dioxide	1,000.00
8. Nitrogen dioxide	1,000.00
V. ACIDS	
1. Sulfuric Acid	1,000.00
2. Nitric Acid	1,000.00
3. Hydrochloric Acid	1,000.00
4. Phosphoric-Acid	1,000.00
5. Hydroflouric Acid	1,000.00
6. Chromic Acid	1,000.00
7. Formic Acid	1,000.00
8. Acetic Acid	1,000.00
VI. METALS	
1. Aluminum	1,200.00
2. Arsenic Compound	1,200.00
3. Cadmium and Compound	1,000.00
4. Chromium	1,000.00
5. Lead	1,000.00
6. Mercury	1,200.00
7. Zinc	1,000.00
8. Manganese	1,000.00
9. Iron	1,000.00
10. Copper	1,000.00
11. Tin	1,200.00
VII. OTHER CHEMICALS	
1. Ozone	1,500.00
2. Formaldehyde	1,200.00
3. Cyanide	1,200.00
4. Phenol	1,200.00
5. Ammonia	800.00
VIII. FOURIER TRANSFORM INFRARED (FTIR) Analysis	1,200.00
IX. RESPIRATOR (Air-Purifying Respirator)	
1. Dust Respirator	
a. Disposable type dust respirator	
- Dust removing efficiency and inhalation resistance	1,500.00
- Exhalation resistance	100.00
- Elongation of Head Harness	100.00
- Tensile strength of a set of head harness	100.00
b. Replaceable type dust respirator	
- Dust removing efficiency and inhalation resistance	1,500.00
- Exhalation resistance	100.00
- Exhalation value dynamical leakage	600.00
- Visual field	100.00
- Dead space	100.00
- Heat resistance	150.00
- Cold resistance	150.00
- Chemical resistance	150.00
- Elongation of head harness	100.00
- Tensile strength of head harness	100.00
- Tensile strength of a set of breathing tube and breathing tube attaching part (separation type)	100.00
2. Gas Respirator	
a. Gas removing ability of chem. Cartridges/canister	
a.1 Organic Gases	
- Chemical Cartridges	1,500.00
- Chin type Canister	1,500.00
- Front or Back-mounted Canister	1,500.00
a.2 Sulfur Dioxide (SO2)	
- Chemical Cartridges	500.00
- Chin type Canister	500.00
- Front or Back-mounted Canister	700.00
a.3 Carbon Monoxide (CO)	
- Chin type Canister	500.00
- Front or Back-mounted Canister	2,300.00
a.4 Chlorine (Cl2)	
- Chemical Cartridges	1,000.00
- Chin type Canister	1,100.00
- Front or Back-mounted Canister	1,500.00
a.5 Ammonia (NH3)	
- Chemical Cartridges	500.00
- Chin type Canister	700.00
- Front or Back-mounted Canister	1,500.00
b. Smoke Removing Efficiency of Canister and Chemical Cartridges	1,000.00
c. Pressure Drop Test	
- Facepiece and connecting hoses	100.00
- Canisters and Chem. Cartridges	100.00
- Exhalation and inhalation valves	100.00
d. Air Tightness Test	
- Facepiece and connecting hoses	100.00
- Canisters and Chem. Cartridges	100.00
- Exhalation and inhalation valves	100.00
e. Chemical resistance	150.00
f. Heat resistance	150.00
g. Cold resistance	150.00
h. Construction Test	
- Tensile strength and Elongation of Rubber	150.00
- Strength and Elongation of Head Harness	100.00
- Strength of Head Harness Attaching Part	100.00
- Strength of Breathing Tube Attaching Part (Front or Back-Mounted Canister)	100.00
- Dead Space	100.00
- Visual Field	100.00
X. VENTILATION	
1. General Ventilation	
- Measurement of air velocity and ambient temperature and determination of air direction (per work area)	200.00
2. Local Exhaust Ventilation	
a. Use of Local Exhaust Vent. Model of Equipt. with accessories and Measuring Apparatus (Local Experiment Room) per day	1,000.00
b. Test of Local Exhaust Ventilation System	
- Measurement of hood velocity and determination of air directional pattern in hood suction (per system)	250.00
- Measurement of dynamic and static pressure of the inside duct	100.00
- Measurement of thickness of duct	100.00
- Measurement of the number of rotation or revolution per minute (rpm) of fan motor	100.00
- Measurement of tensile strength of belt	100.00
- Measurement of current, voltage and insulation resistance	100.00
- Measurement of accelarated vibration, velocity vibration & displacement of the whole ventilation equipment	200.00
SAFETY CONTROL DIVISION	
I. SAFETY HELMET	
1. Impact Test	525.00
2. Penetration Test	100.00
3. Electrical Resistance Test	210.00
4. Flammability Test	65.00
5. Water Absorption Test	78.00
II. SAFETY SHOES	
1. Impact Resistance Test	300.00
2. Tension Test	210.00
3. Compression Test	312.00
4. Sole Puncture Test	240.00
5. Corrosion Test	50.00
6. Electrical Resistance Test	210.00
7. Static Dissipative Test	170.00
III. SAFETY BELT	
1. Impact Test	400.00
2. Tension Test	312.00
IV. SAFETY SPECTACLES	
1. Impact Test	60.00
2. Lens Power	65.00
3. Transmittance Test	370.00
4. Corrosion Test	50.00
5. Flammability Test	65.00
6. High Velocity Impact	370.00
V. GRINDING WHEEL	
- Bursting Test	576.00
- Visual and Sound Test	60.00
VI. RUBBER GLOVES AND BOOTS	
1. Electrical Resistance Test	210.00
VII. BOILER	
Evaluation and Inspection	
- Hydrostatic and Thickness Test	1,200.00
VIII. PRESSURE VESSEL	
Evaluation and Inspection	
- Hydrostatic and Thickness Test	1,000.00
IX. CRANE (first 5 tons)	
Evaluation and Inspection (additional P100.00 per succeeding ton)	1,000.00
X. ELEVATOR	
Evaluation and Inspection	950.00
HEALTH CONTROL DIVISION	
I. CLINICAL CHEMISTRY	
A. Blood Chemistry	
- Glucose	245.00
- Creatinine	255.00
- Urea Nitrogen	270.00
- Uric Acid	260.00
- Cholesterol	255.00
- Triglycerides	270.00
B. Liver Profile	
- Total Protein, A/G Ratio	245.00
- Total Bilirubin	260.00
- Direct Bilirubin	260.00
- Alkaline Phosphatase	285.00
- SGOT	285.00
- SGPT	285.00
- Gamma GT	300.00
- Albumin	235.00
Others	
- Cholenesterase-serum	245.00
- RBC-Cholnesterase	290.00
II. CLINICAL LABORATORY	
- Urinalysis	80.00
- Stool Examination	70.00
III. CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY	
- Lead in Blood	310.00
- Lead in Urine	460.00
- Mn in Blood	305.00
- Mn in Urine	460.00
- Cr in Urine	550.00
- Cd in Blood	305.00
- Cd in Urine	460.00
- As in Urine	650.00
- As in Blood	495.00
- Hg in Urine	645.00
- Hg in Blood	490.00
- d-Ala in Urine	145.00
IV. HEMATOLOGY	
- Complete Blood Count	260.00
- Hemoglobin	245.00
- hematocrit	245.00
- Blood Typing	80.00
- Platelets	75.00
- ESR	80.00
- Blood and Morphology	85.00
- WBC/RBC Count	245.00
VI. TB LABORATORY	
- AFB Smear	60.00
VII. MICROBIOLOGY	
- GRAM'S STAIN	100.00
VIII. RADIOLOGIC EXAMINATIONS	
- Chest X-ray (PA view) Big Film	250.00
- Chest X-ray (Lordonic, Lateral views)	300.00
IX. SPECIAL MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS	
- Spirometry	240.00
- Complete Pulmunary Function Test	420.00
- Electrocardiogram	180.00
- Audiometry	240.00
- Occupational Visual Performance Test	120.00
X. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION (PE)*	
* Note: Price includes consultant's fee For request outside Metro Manila, a corresponding amount shall be added to cover transportation expenses.	
XI. ORGANIC SOLVENTS	
- Urine Metabolites (Hippuric Acid, Methyl Hippuric Acid, Mandelic Acid)	150.00
- Phenol in Urine	150.00
- Trichlorates in Urine (TTC and TCA)	150.00
- 2,5 Hexanedine in Urine	250.00
TRAINING AND PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVISION	
I. FUNCTION ROOM RATES	
- Auditorium	8,500.00
- Large Training Room	4,250.00
- Small Training Room	3,250.00
- Seminar Room	1,625.00
II. DORMITORY RATES	
- Without Aircon	500.00
- With Aircon	1,000.00
III. AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES	
- Video Dubbing* (per topic) * exlucing tape	150.00
TRAINING FEES	
1. Basic Occupational Safety and Health (BOSH) (5 days)	3,500.00
2. Training of Trainors (3 days)	3,500.00
3. Seminar-Workshop on Work Environment Measurement (3 days)	3,500.00
4. Chemical Safety Training (3 days)	3,000.00
5. Industrial Ventilation (3 days)	3,000.00
6. Industrial Fire Safety Training (3 days)	2,500.00
7. Fire Safety Appreciation Course (1 day)	1,000.00
8. Construction Safety Training (5 days)	3,500.00
9. Safety and Health Management Training (3 days)	2,500.00
10. Zero Accident Program Training (3 days)	2,100.00
11. Zero Accident Program Orientation (1 day)	700.00
All other trainings in Metro Manila shall be charged P700.00 per day. Regional training will vary based on the prevailing cost of meals and accomodation.	
** For technical services, transportation/gasoline expense shall be charged when using OSHC vehicle.*	



Militants tell BF: Dream on

By Norman Bordadora

MILITANTS yesterday dismissed the chances of Metro Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando in getting the votes he was expecting to generate from the metropolis should he run for vice president.

The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said Fernando would be hard-pressed in getting 30 percent of the estimated 12 million votes in the National Capital Region.

"Ninety percent of Metro Manila voters are urban poor who were displaced, harmed and chased by the MMDA's campaign against sidewalk vendors and squatters since last year. And all Metro Manila voters are tree lovers," said Fernando Hicap, Pamalakaya national chair.

"Fernando should not expect votes from them," he added.

Fernando has been quoted as saying that 30 percent or 3.6 million votes from Metro Manila would be enough for him to be elected vice president in 2004.

"His brutality towards ordinary people ... would not bring in the desired percentage even if it is far from being a majority," Hicap said.

Fernando has been criticized for his gung-ho attitude in implementing MMDA policies meant to instill discipline among Metro Manila residents.

Fernando last week declared his intention to run for the vice presidency in next year's national elections.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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Pressman dies in freak fall

By Margaux Ortiz

A JUNIOR Pressman fell while feeding paper into a machine at a printing press in Makati City early yesterday morning.

Police said Nestor Macusi, of 23 Pagkakaisa Compound, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City, lost his balance and fell head first to the ground three meters below at the Alliance Media Printing Inc. on Mascardo Street, Makati City.

Police added that the railing he tried to lean onto when he lost his balance gave in.

SPO1 Lewelie Cristobal said the accident happened at 12:55 a.m. Macusi was immediately taken to the Makati Medical Center where he died of a cardiac arrest at around 3:25 p.m.

According to Noli Hapan, day shift supervisor of the printing press, doctors said that the victim's fall resulted in a four-inch fracture on the skull.

Hapan disclosed that Macusi was still recovering from two fires that ravaged his home earlier this year.

He added that Macusi left behind his wife and six children, including a three-month-old baby.

Dennis Valdes, president of the Alliance Media Printing Inc., said that he was saddened by the incident.

Valdes said that they are forming a committee within the company to investigate the accident.

He added that they will re-examine safety and printing procedures to prevent such accidents from taking place in the future.

"We will do everything to make sure that Mr. Macusi's family is taken care of," Valdes said.

Transport groups set strike

From page A24

sion tests, drug tests and other transactions.

While Macapagal-Arroyo vowed to immediately address the transport sector's concerns during their meeting last June 27, the agencies which the President tasked to implement the agreement did not act, Mendoza said.

For example, he said, the President ordered the two agencies to lower the "computer fee" for the registration of private and public vehicles to P20 from P132 but it was implemented for only a few days.

The second concern is the plan of Metro Manila mayors to take over traffic management in their respective cities and towns in the metropolis.

Maranan said that if the mayors insisted on implementing their own ticketing systems, the drivers would be the ones who would suffer from the varying fees for traffic violations.

Third among their concerns is the proliferation of terminals in barangays up to city levels.

Mendoza said these terminals were being used by some local officials to earn undue income.

The fourth and the main issue is the move of the Department of Transportation and Communication to allow FX taxis to enter the jeepney routes while prohibiting jeepney operators to introduce air-conditioned units.

Mendoza said the transport groups were considering this as a way of phasing out the jeepneys.

Maranan said, "It's okay if they phase us out of the streets as long as they give us alternative jobs."

She reminded the government that the jeepney was a "national treasure" that should be treated with pride.

And while Mendoza clarified that the strike had nothing to do with the LTFRB rejection of the groups' petition for a fare hike, De Luna said it was one of their key concerns.

Mendoza said that the strike would also be felt in Davao and Cebu. He disclosed that another strike was being planned to take place in Bicol tomorrow.

Tanza out as relocation site

From page A23

City.

The NHA and the NLRC has announced that the Malabon City area to be affected by the construction of the Metro-Clark Rail project, should be cleared by the end of July.

Although the July deadline has been extended, residents are seeking assurances from the government that a relocation site would be ready should the demolition push through any time this year.

And while Pamintuan admitted that the change of relocation site would cause some delay, he said the relocation would begin within the year, probably in October.

On the other hand, Pamintuan disclosed that 4,000 Valenzuela City residents affected by the railway project could already be relocated to two in-city resettlement sites.

Pamintuan said the agency identified four resettlement areas and two had already been approved for use. The two would be ready for their new occupants in August.

Tanza out as relocation site for Malabon settlers

By Edson Tandoc Jr. and Tina Santos

TANZA, Navotas, is out of the picture. But housing officials are assuring Malabon City residents of another resettlement area in the city.

Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council head Secretary Mike Defensor yesterday told the INQUIRER that they already dropped Tanza as a relocation site for the 2,800 families in Malabon which would be affected by the Metro-Clark Rail Project.

But he said they were already looking at another Malabon area where the residents of the five affected barangays could be moved.

National Housing Authority General Manager Ed Pamintuan also said they were considering at least three areas in Malabon City although he said no plan was definite yet.

He said the 12.5-hectare Tanza property, which is lined with fish pens, was not ideal because it was underwater.

"It will take some time to develop Tanza. It is three feet deep and we have to fill it up first," Pamintuan said.

Pamintuan said the resettlement project would be delayed if they decided to push through with Tanza.

He added that Towerville, which was earlier proposed by project proponent North Luzon Railways Corp. (NLRC), was a better alternative.

However, most of those to be relocated have rejected Towerville because it was too far from their means of livelihood.

But Defensor assured residents that Towerville was not being considered.

He said the area now being considered was recommended by the owner of the Tanza property. The two areas belong to the same owner.

City Councilor Edilberto Torres told the INQUIRER yesterday that Defensor could be referring to Barangay Panghulo, Malabon

TANZA/A22

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STUDENTS of Pura Kalaw High School have been assured by city and school authorities they would be allowed to finish before the school is closed down.

JOAN BONDOC

Fight for 'good school' continues

By Tina Santos

FIGHTING the inevitable closure of Pura V. Kalaw High School, residents, particularly parents and students in Project 4, Quezon City, have organized a movement against the school's phaseout.

This developed even as the residents, as well as some non-governmental groups, reiterated their appeal to the city government to study further and consider the situation of their school.

Among those who have expressed support for the alliance, dubbed as Napukaw Mo! (No To Pura V. Kalaw Phase Out Movement!), is running priest Fr. Robert Reyes.

"Good schools are very rare. We just don't understand why they want to close it down. They seem to have not made a deeper study on this," Reyes said.

He pointed out that Kalaw High School ranked 7th in performance out of the 42 high schools in the city. It is one of the two high schools in Project 4, a community of 13 barangays and a population of over 100,000.

"The decision reflects poorly on the Department of Education. And I would like to take their (affected students and residents) cause to higher authorities," Reyes told the INQUIRER.

The Division of City Schools, particularly Quezon City District Superintendent Victoria Fuentes, decided to phase out the school due to an alleged lack of facilities and classrooms.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte has assured students that they will be able to finish their studies at Pura V. Kalaw during the phaseout period.

In the plan, the current 400 students will be allowed to finish their high school education at the school but no new enrollees will be accepted.

To date, the school has second, third, and fourth year students.

Incoming high school students could enroll at the Jose P. Laurel High School located right across Pura V. Kalaw.

But concerned groups are saying that the city government and the education department are missing the point.

"The issue is not about the students graduating. The issue here is about closing down a good school," said Bing Baguioro, whose two children study at Kalaw.

In a letter he sent to Belmonte in behalf of the other parents, Baguioro said that while they appreciated the move to allow the present students to graduate from Pura V. Kalaw, they were lamenting the impending loss of a school that is performing well.

Kalaw High School began operating in school year 2000-2001, with the vision of it becoming an integrated school.

Baguioro said an integrated school would maximize resources, set standards for quality basic education, and respond to the educational needs of city residents.

He likewise urged Belmonte and the city council to assess the school's performance and its merits, which he claimed could justify its existence and consequently, its retention.

Baguioro said they would also like to ask education department officials to "provide a better reason to close the school other than invoking the lack of facilities and classrooms.

"This is extremely absurd (since there are) available spaces that it can creatively use," he explained.

Philippine Airlines

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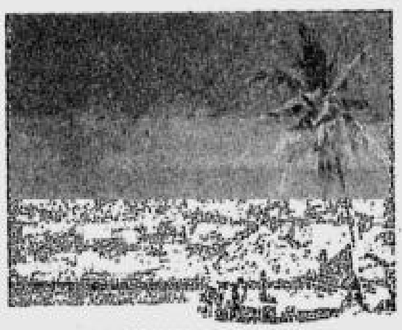

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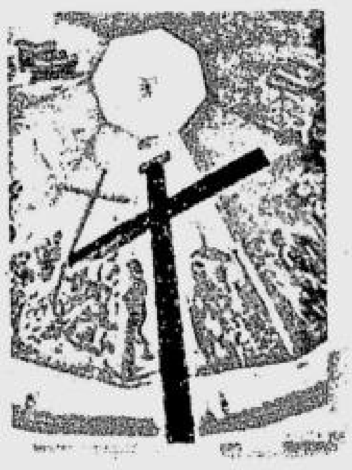

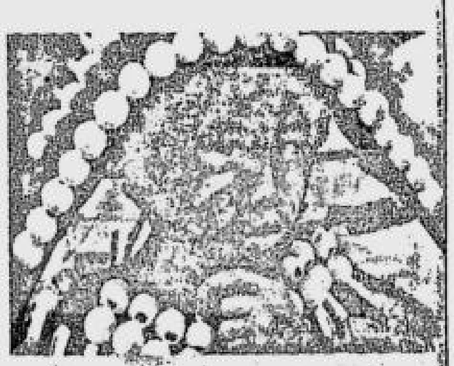

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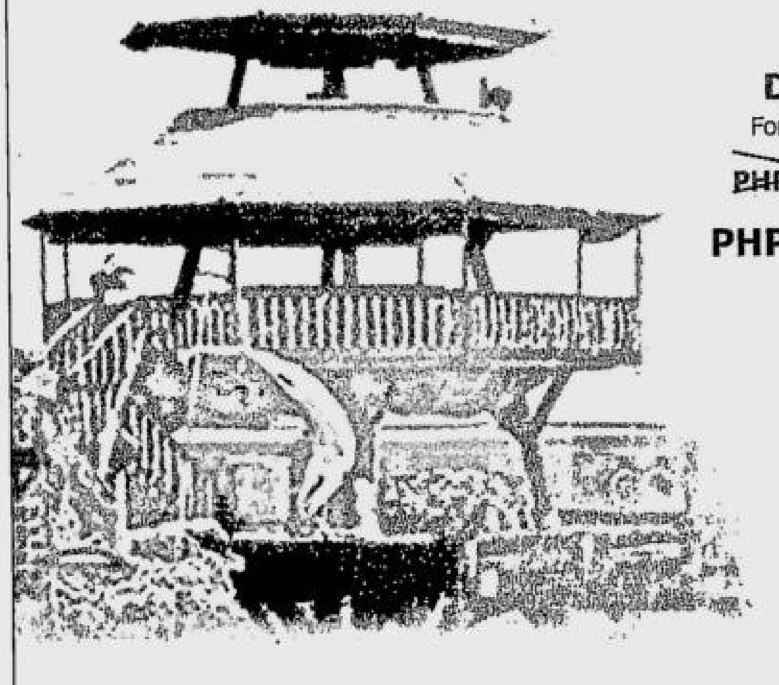

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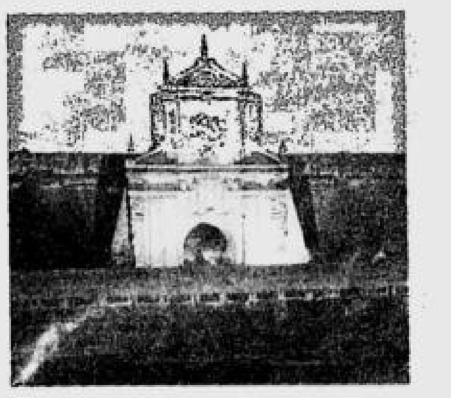

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Lights aglow in the tunnel

By Margaux Ortiz

AT LAST, there's light inside the Edsa-Ayala tunnel, and not just at the end of it.

Motorists passing through the southbound lane of the tunnel will feel safer driving through the tunnel after the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) installed more lights and safety devices.

The improvements will help prevent more accidents from happening inside the tunnel because of the three-meter wall on the side.

The tunnel has already claimed two lives in three years. Authorities, as well as families of the victims, have blamed the poor lighting at the entrance of and inside the tunnel.

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios yesterday said they had placed more yellow lights in the dark corners of the tunnel to prevent motorists from crashing into the protruding wall.

He added that they had also installed "reflectorized" arrows to warn motorists to stay away from the tunnel's danger zone.

Vergel de Dios said the absence of skid marks during the last vehicular accident in the tunnel, in which Joseph de los Reyes was killed last April, had indicated that the driver had fallen asleep on the wheel.

De los Reyes was driving a Toyota Revo when he crashed against the wall inside the tunnel.

To address the "sleeping problem," the MMDA has also installed chatter bars or foot-high mounds that shake a vehicle that runs over them.

Vergel de Dios said there were now a hundred chatter bars placed 70 to 100 meters before the protruding wall.

He said they had also placed sandbags to cushion any impact on the wall.

The accidents in the Ayala tunnel have prompted MMDA officials to also light up the Pioneer Street tunnel and the tunnel on Shaw Boulevard, both in Mandaluyong.

"We are now studying how we could make the said tunnels safer for motorists," Vergel de Dios said.

Actress Sunshine Dizon had survived a car crash in the vicinity of the Pioneer Street tunnel. Poor lighting had also been blamed for the mishap which landed Dizon in a hospital last month.

So far, the Ayala tunnel had proven to be the more dangerous among the underground passages in Metro Manila due to the three-meter wall inside it that serves as an emergency area for the Metro Rail Transit that runs above the tunnel.

But it was poor lighting in the entrance of the tunnel that killed Michael Jose Lapuos, 20, in 2000.

Lapuos was driving a Honda Civic with a friend when his car smashed into a concrete barricade at the tunnel entrance.

Lapuos' parents have filed a case against the Makati City government, the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Metro Manila Development Authority for their son's death in the tunnel.

"REFLECTORIZED" lights now provide direction and guide to motorists driving in the Edsa-Ayala tunnel.

ROGER MARGALLO

Transport groups set strike today

By Edson Tandoc Jr. and Margaux Ortiz

DO NOT be surprised if you see only a few or no jeepneys on the road today. That's because the major jeepney transport groups have decided to go on strike.

The strike is expected to paralyze 95 to 100 percent of the jeepney transport system in Metro Manila, according to Efren de Luna, president of the Philippine Confederation of Drivers and Operators—Alliance of Concerned Transport Organizations.

De Luna told the INQUIRER that jeepney drivers would cease plying their routes at 5 a.m. today.

He said areas where the jeepney strike would be most felt include San Juan, Marikina City, Pasig City, Quezon City and even Cainta.

Manila, Makati City and entry points from Cavite and Laguna would also be critical said Zeny Maranan, president of the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines.

She added that at least five major transport groups would participate in today's strike.

Virgo Mendoza, legal counsel for most of the transport groups in the metropolis, said his clients launched the transport strike due to four major reasons.

The first, Mendoza said, was the unfulfilled promise of President Macapagal-Arroyo to bring down the high fees charged by the Land Transportation Office and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) for smoke emis-

TRANSPORT/ A22

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SPORTS

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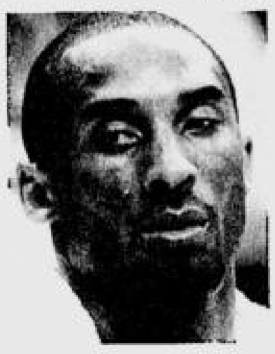
Kobe's millions in peril

Sexual assault charge clouds Bryant's sponsorship deals

LOS ANGELES—His face is everywhere. There's Kobe Bryant soaring for an eye-popping dunk. There's Kobe Bryant holding an NBA championship trophy aloft. There's Kobe Bryant sipping a Sprite or heading to McDonald's with a gaggle of youngsters.


BRYANT

It's been that way almost from the day he joined the Los Angeles Lakers seven years ago, fresh out of a suburban Philadelphia high school.

A felony sexual assault charge is likely to change it all.

Bryant's cooler than cool good-guy image is taking a pounding, his NBA career is threatened and his sponsorship deals—worth at least $20 million a year—are endangered.

The 24-year-old superstar guard faces four years to life in prison or 20 years to life on probation if convicted.

He denied the charge, saying he was guilty only of committing adultery with a 19-year-old woman who worked the front desk at the exclusive spa in Eagle, Colorado, where Bryant stayed while undergoing knee surgery.

"Everybody thought he was squeaky clean. Now, everybody knows he's not," said Peter Louie, a 39-year-old Los Angeles attorney and lifetime Lakers fan.

Bryant's million-dollar smile and charisma rival those of Magic Johnson, Tiger Woods and Michael Jordan.

Because of that image—bright, handsome, successful, wealthy—Bryant has been one of America's most recognizable citizens and a prominent pitchman for several major companies.

He signed a five-year, $45-million contract with Nike just days before the sexual assault allegations surfaced earlier this month.

Within hours after Bryant was charged Friday, the shoe company issued a statement of support, saying it was "pleased to have a relationship" with the five-time NBA All-Star, who helped the Lakers win three straight titles.

But not everyone is so sure that kind of support will last.

"In the short term, this is going

KOBE'S/ A26

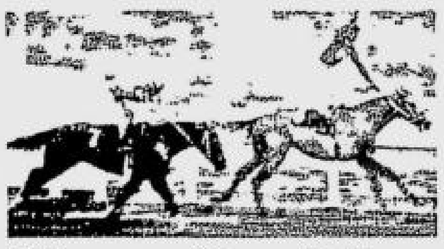
WHAT'S INSIDE

▨ Tams regain solo lead; Eagles win /A26

▨ Jenny 7 adrift in Big Apple /A27

▨ Woods, 11 others within 4 shots or less /A28

▨ Lance struggling /A30


▨ Success Story foils West Bound /A31

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

POOL: World Pool Championships 2003; 9:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. (r); Star Sports; 4 p.m.; ESPN—Relive the glory and agony as the two remaining cue artists battle it out for the right to be called the best in the world.

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Foster's British Grand Prix Race Day; 4 p.m. (r); Star Sports—Take another look at the spectacular race from Silverstone, England.

GOLF: LPGA Wegmans Rochester; 10 a.m.; ESPN—See who survives the cut as the second round goes underway.

B.C. Open; 1 p.m. (r-11:30 p.m.); Star Sports—Watch the final round of the PGA Tour event from Endicott, New York

British Open 2003; 9:30 p.m. (r); ESPN—Catch a replay of the final round of golf's third major.

BASKETBALL: 1998 Eastern Conference Finals, Pacers vs Bulls, Game 7; 8 a.m. (r-5 p.m.); Solar Sports—Take a look back at the Final Running of the Bulls as they take on Reggie Miller and the Indiana Pacers.

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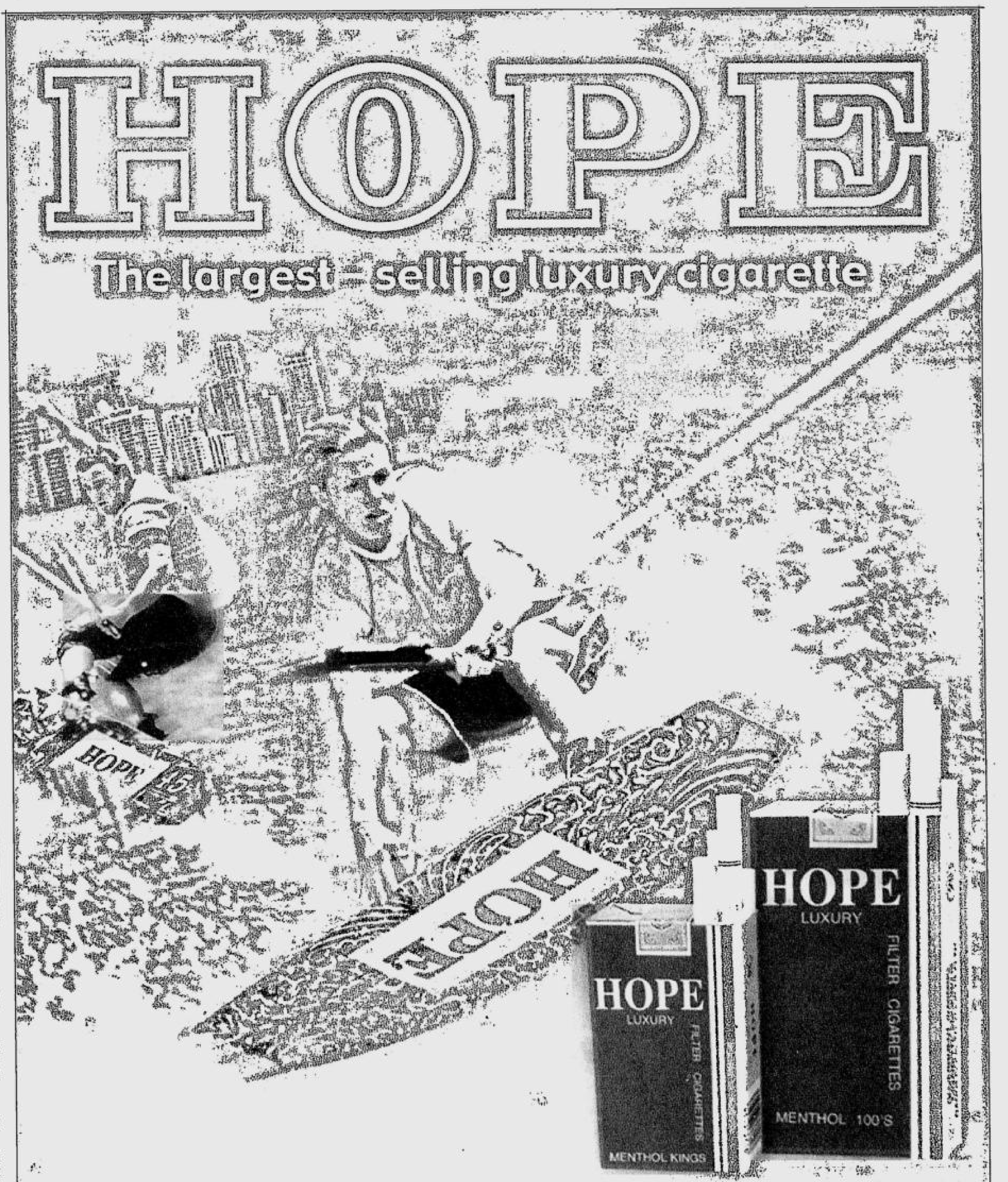
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Alaska Aces clinch sixth and last Invitationals berth

By June Navarro

ALASKA kept its composure down the stretch to hammer out a 93-85 victory over Barangay Ginebra last night and collar the sixth and last seat in the Samsung-PBA Asian Invitationals at the Cuneta Astrodome.

John Arigo erupted for 30 points while Ali Peek and EJ Feihl dominated the shaded lane as the Aces completed a 4-game sweep of the single-round qualifying of the tournament.

The Gin Kings wound up in a tie with Shell and Sta. Lucia Realty at 2-2. Purefoods was last at 0-4 after taking an earlier 80-72 loss to the Realtors—the Hotdogs' 10th straight setback since the start of the All Filipino Cup last February.

"We gained a lot of experience in this series and those four games will make us tougher when we play in the second and third conferences," said Alaska coach Tim Cone.

The Aces will now join early qualifiers Batang Red Bull, San Miguel Beer, FedEx, Talk 'N Text and Coca-Cola in the Invitationals set on July 27.

A team from China (Jilin Qi Tigers), South Korea (Yonsei University) and Yugoslavia will represent the foreign challenge. Rounding out the cast is the Philippine team who will use the tournament as tune-up for the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games in December.

"I'm very interested to see them (foreign teams) play. But I hope we wouldn't be scheduled to play them first so we could scout them," said Cone.

The Aces will be bracketed with Coca-Cola, San Miguel Beer, the RP team and the Jilin Qi Tigers.

The league takes a one-week break before the Invitationals on Sunday.

Although the Purefoods-SLR game had no bearing except for the won-game bonuses and some measure of pride for the players, the Realtors played like everything was at stake, outplaying the Hotdogs right from the start.

SCORES:

First Game

STA. LUCIA 80—Adriano 25, Francisco 16, Santos 10, Bat-og 8, Victolero 6, Aquino 6, Espino 5, Yu 2, Ong 2, Webb 0.

PUREFOODS 72—Raymundo 17, Castillo 16, Santos 13, Demape 13, Mamaril 11, Mesina 2, Echavez 0, Cantonjos 0, Patrimonio 0, Yee 0, Seigle 0.

Quarters: 19-10, 47-31, 58-50, 80-72.

Second Game

ALASKA 93—Arigo 30, Peek 16, Cortez 12, Duat 10, Feihl 7, Allado 7, Noble 6, Cablay 4, Padilla 0, Ordonio 0, Castro 0.

GINEBRA 85—Caguioa 20, Menk 19, David 14, Adducul 9, Dimaunahan 7, Calpito 6, Ballesteros 6, Johnson 2, Tolomia 2.

Quarters: 19-17, 43-36, 64-51, 93-85

Tams regain solo lead; Eagles win

GAMES THURSDAY (Araneta Coliseum)
11 a.m.—UP vs Adamson (jrs)
2 p.m.—UP vs Adamson (srs)
4 p.m.—La Salle vs UE (srs)
6 p.m.—La Salle vs UE (jrs)

By Dennis U. Eroa

FAR Eastern regained the solo lead yesterday even as defending champion Ateneo finally broke into the win column of the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Blue Eagle gym.

The FEU Tamaraws routed National University, 71-49, behind a relentless trapping defense and moved on top alone with their third straight victory.

The Ateneo Eagles survived a late rally from the Santo Tomas Tigers and took their first win in three outings with a 69-65 victory.

Pointguard Dennis Miranda, Arwind Santos, Cesar Catli, Mark Isip and Dom Yabut tore the Bulldogs' defense apart as the Tamaraws kept their momentum after opening up a 32-22 halftime lead.

"I hope we can sustain this 3-0 start," said FEU mentor coach Koy Banal, who is fielding a team toughened by its runner-up finish as Viva Mineral Water in the recent PBL Unity Cup.

FEU failed to make the Final Four last year but is considered one of the favored teams this season.

FEU debuted by beating Adamson, 57-53, last July 13 and followed it up with a convincing 73-62 win over Ateneo.

The Eagles, who dropped their opening game to the UE Warriors, had erected another 10-point lead with three minutes left before the Tigers whittled it down to 63-64 with successive three-pointers, two from Frederic Hubalde.

But veteran LA Tenorio broke Ateneo's long silence with a clutch jumper and then issued an assist to Paolo Bugia, whose reverse lay-up finally doomed the Tigers, 68-63.

NU, which won the Fr. Martin's Cup during the pre-season, had hoped to upstage FEU with its smooth motion game coupled with its own brand of in-your face defense.

But FEU was ready for everything that NU could offer. Big men Isip, Razon and Yabut took turns shackling NU main man Rey Mendoza.

The 6-foot-4 Mendoza got into foul trouble early and scored only four points. He scored his first field goal with the Tamaraws already beyond recall, 69-47, with 1:08 left.

Coach Koy Banal's ploy of putting the taller and heftier James Zablan and Rhagnee Sinco on Froilan Baguion also worked wonders as the 5-foot-8 Bulldog playmaker needed to work doubly hard to set NU's plays.

The 6-foot-6 Razon, who subbed for the fouled-out Isip, and Santos clustered six straight points as FEU posted its biggest lead, 63-41, with four minutes remaining.

Gerard Jones showed the way for FEU with 11 points.

SCORES:

FEU 71—Jones 11, Santos 10, Miranda 10, Yabut 9, Sinco 7, Catli 6, Zablan 4, Razon 4, Rizada 3, Chan 2, Guiterrez 0.

NU 49—Tolentino 15, Cajayon 13, Catamora D. 5, Baguion 5, Mendoza 4, Miclat 3, Catamora 2, Malagueno 2, Malcontento 0.

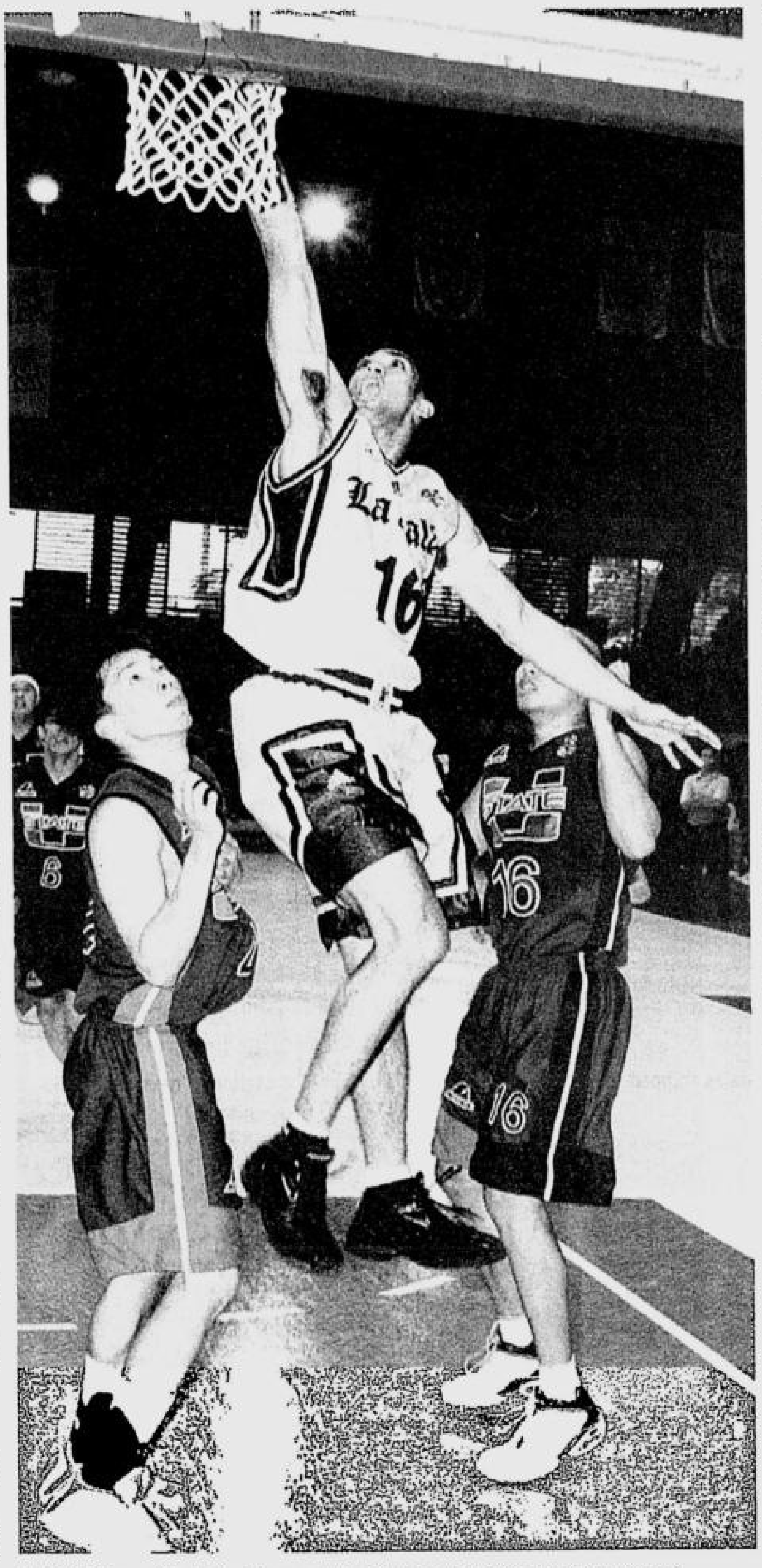
Quarters: 19-9, 32-22, 49-31, 71-49

Second game

ATENEO 69—Fonacier 18, Gonzales 15, Intal 10, Del Rosario 10, Tenorio 7, Kramer 6, Bugia 3, Alvarez 0, Tiu 0.

UST 65—Hubalde 14, Villamin 11, Espiritu 11, De Guzman 9, Vizcarra 6, Manansala 6, Luanzon 3, Raterta 2, Cortez 2, Phribdas 2.

Quarters: 23-22, 42-39, 58-48, 69-65.



JERWIN Gaco of La Salle drives past the Maroons' Ira Gilberto Buyco (right) and John David Penson at the Blue Eagle gym. RUDY ESPERAS

Taguig repulses Bacolod five in OT

GAME TODAY
3 p.m.—Compak Shineway vs Taguig

SILAY CITY—Forward Taguig rallied to edge Air Philippines-Bacolod, 79-76, in overtime Saturday to improve its win-loss card to 6-4 in the first NBL national championship at the Mayor Natalio G. Velez Sports and Cultural Center here.

Jimmy Robillos and Robin Mendoza sparked a big comeback while Erwin Sta. Maria delivered clutch hits in the extension period to seal the victory for Taguig.

Earlier, elimination topnotcher M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala-Cebu downed Compak Shineway-Ozamiz, 75-69, for its third straight win in the Visayas tour of the tourney sponsored by Tanduay Rhum, Air Philippines, PCSO, Panasonic, Cebu Ferries, SuperCat, Gatorade, Nature's Spring Drinking Water, BJ Star Logistics, The Freeman, Sinners and Saints, Jaguar KTV and Molten Basketballs.

"I give credit to the boys because they held on and fought till the end," said Taguig coach Danny Gavierrez. "Two more wins and we'll make it to No. 3."

Forward Taguig seeks its third straight win today when it faces Compak Shineway at 3 p.m. at the Talisay City gym.

SCORES:

FIRST GAME

LHUILLIER 75—Dela Rosa 13, Canoneo 11, Reyes 11, Aying 5, Manigo 4, Smith 4, Rodriguez 4, Caputolan 4, Lumantas 0, Dacia 0

OZAMIZ 69—Ferraren 17, Sampilo 17, Delina 10, Jaca 9, Libatog 6, Cabrera 4, Cabigkis 4, Misola 2, Marucot 0, Alvarado 0, Guerrero 0

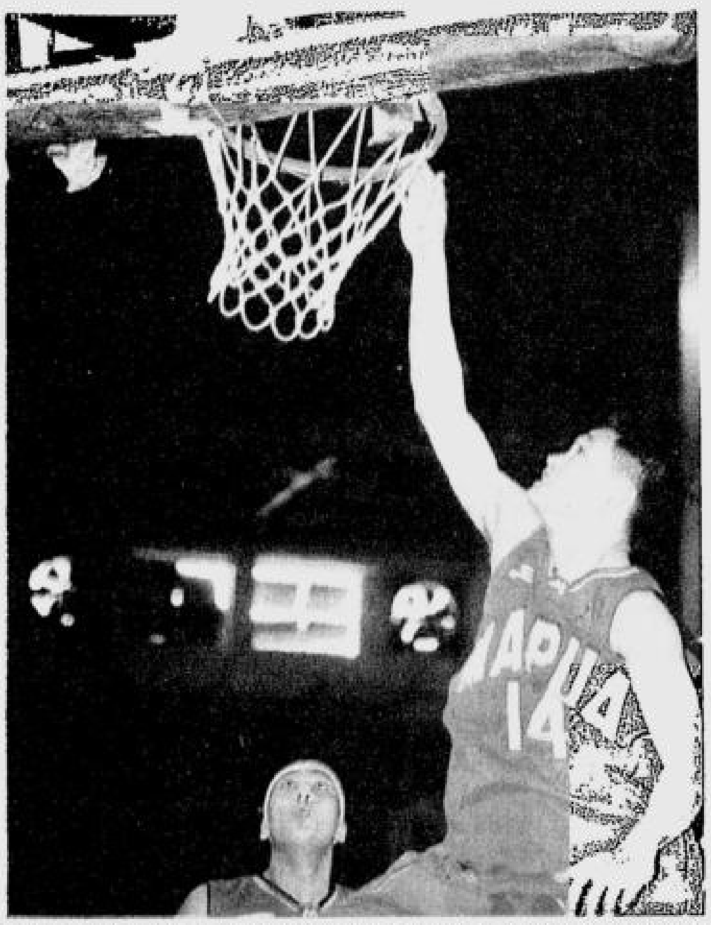
Quarterscores: 19-27, 35-33, 56-55, 75-69

SECOND GAME

TAGUIG 79—Robillos 25, Mendoza 17, Villar 16, Roldan 10, Sta. Maria 7, Bernardino 3, Dais 1, Quimpo 0, Nuqui 0, Macanig 0

AIRPHIL 76—Mendiola 23, Aquino 13, Pua 12, Du 8, Ricafuente 8, Go 7, Alcantara 3, De Guia 2, Pile 0

Quarterscores: 20-29, 35-38, 51-55, 66-66 (regulation), 79-76



MAPUA'S Raymond Gorospe misses on a dunk in the game against San Sebastian Friday. The Stags beat the Cardinals. RUDY ESPERAS

Stags take on Lions; Cards face Blazers

STANDINGS	W	L
JRU	4	1
Mapua	3	2
Letran	3	2
SSC-R	3	2
San Beda	3	2
Perpetual	2	3
PCU	2	3
St. Benilde	0	5

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Coliseum*)
11:30 p.m.—Mapua vs CSB (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—SBC vs SSC-R (jrs/srs)

DEFENDING champion San Sebastian tests San Beda even as Mapua tries to push St. Benilde to the brink of early elimination today in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Fresh from a 63-61 squeaker over the Cardinals, the Stags clash with the Red Lions at 5:30 p.m. after the Cardinals meet the floundering Blazers early in the afternoon.

The Stags are locked in a four-way tie at 3-2 with the Letran Knights, Cardinals and Red Lions, who overpowered the Blazers, 91-81, on Friday.

The Jose Rizal University Heavy Bombers show the way with a 4-1 record.

With the setback to the Stags, the Cardinals learned a valuable lesson in concentration. The Cardinals thought they've sent the game into overtime when Hermes Sumalinog drilled a triple that tied the score with six ticks left.

But SSC's Michael Gonzales had the presence of mind to quickly rifle a pass to Mark Legarde, who broke the tie with a fastbreak layup.

The Stags will have to put up a strong defense on Lions' Arjun Cordero, Jerome Paterno, Martin Antonio and Ronnie Bughao, who sent the 2000 NCAA titlists Blazers plummeting to their fifth straight defeat.

Another setback would push the Blazers closer to elimination and missing the Final Four for the first time in four years.

Mapua coach Horacio Lim will lean again on Sumalinog, Christian Guevarra, Ryan Malig, Jefferson Gonzales, Andrew Salud, Raymond Dula, Tristan Veranga, Roby David and Nat Cruz.

In between the senior matches, the San Beda Red Cubs and the San Sebastian Staglets collide for the lead in the junior division.

The Mapua Red Robins kick it up with the La Salle Greenies at 11:30 in the morning.

June Navarro

SPORTS noodle

Bong Barrameda VOL. I NO. 032

The stuff sports is made of

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other sports 'genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.
☐ True / False: To withstand slam dunks and allow players to keep a good grip as they go for the alley-oop, an NBA or PBA basketball is made of a synthetic material known as composite leather

2 > 5 Pts.
☐ The fuzzy material that covers a tennis ball is made of what?
○ Wool
○ Flax

3 > 7 Pts.
☐ In 1869 American inventor John W. Hyatt created celluloid, the first practical synthetic plastic, because he wanted to find a substitute for the elephant ivory used to make:
○ Bowling balls
○ Mahjong tiles
○ Billiard balls

4 > 10 Pts.
☐ The domed tip of a top-class billiards cue stick is made of five layers of leather courtesy of what animal?
○ Pig
○ Cow
○ Alligator

5 > 15 Pts.
☐ Which bird gives a badminton shuttlecock its 16 feathers?
○ Duck
○ Goose
○ Peacock
○ Chicken

6 > 25 Pts.
☐ Most golf balls today have a rubber core and a cover made of a plastic resin called:
○ Velox
○ Polysulfone
○ Surlyn
○ Aramid

7 > 30 Pts.
☐ A baseball is made of cowhide lined with stitches that enable a pitcher to throw a slider or a curveball. Exactly how many stitches?

ANSWERS/A28

Kobe's millions in peril

From page A25

to kill his endorsements," said Michael Sands, consultant for Sands Digital Media in Los Angeles.

David Carter, a principal for the Los Angeles-based Sports Business Group, called the case "the sports marketing equivalent of SARS."

"If he's found guilty, he's got bigger problems than sports marketing," Carter said. "If it turns out to be that it was consensual sex, merely adultery, I think he will get through this OK."

Sands agreed.

"If he takes the witness stand in Colorado, gives an accurate account of each and every event during the sexual encounter, which will turn out to be an American soap opera, he'll be OK," he said. "The bridges can be repaired."

Sands also noted that, in a perverse way, a tarnished image can be a plus.

"Kobe is a national institution at this point," he said. "Now, he has a bad-boy image, which America likes.

"Nike would be foolish to drop Kobe—he's a bigger household name now than he's ever been in an economy that's terrible," Sands said. *AP*

ROSALES matches her second-round effort despite bogeying two of the last three holes. AP

SOLO FIFTH

Jenny 7 adrift in Big Apple

JENNY Rosales birdied the last hole for her second three-under-par 69 in three days on Saturday and moved up to solo fifth place going into the final round of the $950,000 LPGA Big Apple Classic at Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle, New York.

There's a seven-stroke difference between J-Ro and the two co-leaders, American veteran Meg Mallon and Korean Hee Won-han, but the RP star is eyeing no less than a spectacular comeback.

Rosales, refreshed after taking the last week off, is on target for a fifth Top 10 finish of the season with her 209 aggregate while Hee, firing a seven-under 65, and Mallon, carding a 68, were at 202.

The only other players ahead of Rosales were Cindy Figg-Currier (73-207) and Korean Mi Hyun-Kim (71-208).

"It really should be just the two of us," Mallon said looking ahead to Sunday's final round which will be televised live on NBC. "That should be fun. This is what you play for, what you love."

Mallon will be gunning for her 15th career win while Han hopes to score a career breakthrough.

Rosales chipped in for par on the first hole and played solid from there with birdies on the second, sixth and 11th to go three under all the way to the 14th.

A bogey on the 15th halted the momentum and after J-Ro saved par on the 16th, came another bogey on the 17th. She, however, was quick to regain the lost stroke with her closing birdie.

The 24-year-old Rosales, who placed 13th in the US Women's Open two weeks ago in Portland, Oregon before she took a much-needed break, will be playing alongside Kim, the first round leader, and Audra Burks in the final round, right behind the final threesome of Mallon, Hee and Figg-Currier.

J-Ro's overseas campaign supported by Pagcor and the American Eye Center of Jack Arroyo continues with back-to-back stints in the Evian Masters in France and the Weetabix Women's British Open where she placed fourth last year in the next two weeks.

Suzy Whaley, the teaching pro from Avon, Conn., who will play in the PGA Tour's Greater Hartford Open next week, had another 75 for 219 and was among those bunched at 55th place.

Meanwhile, J-Ro's brother Gerald is also set to see action in the Long Beach Open a minor event with a purse of $200,000 next week. *Jong Arcano*

John Hay stays alive in Fed League golf

Group I: 13 Eastridge, 8 Manila Golf, 5 Southwoods, 3 Highlands, 2 Mimosa. **Group II:** 12 Forest Hills, 10 Alabang, 8 Valley, 4 John Hay 3 Wack Wack, 3 Orchard. **Group III:** 11 Northwoods, 9 Riviera, 9 Sherwood Hills, 9 Canlubang, 7 Mt. Malarayat, 3 Sta. Elena

NEWCOMER John Hay pulled off two good decisions while playing host to Metro Manila clubs to keep its flickering hopes alive in Group II even as Canlubang scored an all-important win in the eliminations of the Federation Golf League recently.

John Hay first forced a 2-2 deadlock with Alabang then humbled Valley, 3-1, to earn four points and jump ahead of Wack Wack and Orchard for fourth place in Group II.

Mike Pearson-Mars Garcia (best ball), Sagat Giron-Marcelo Alfonso (high-low) and Shean Bedi-Jay Co (scramble) all won their matches against Valley to give the Baguio-based team its first victory in the double-round series.

The win was a big followup to the draw it earned the previous day with Alabang which was eyeing a share of the lead with Forest Hills.

Bong Mandapat-Romy Tiu took the aggregate format while Bedi-Co salvaged a draw with King Stehmeier-Babes Guilatco in scramble and Goody Ignacio-Mike Pearson split the best-ball point with reigning national seniors champion Iggy Clavecilla and Rolly Castro.

Canlubang stayed on track for a quarterfinals berth in Group III after beating Sta. Elena, 3-1.

Tony Olives-Jimmy Feliciano (best ball), Akiyoshi Miyazaki-Susumo Ito (aggregate) and Mari Hechanova-Monet Lao (scramble) secured Canlubang's fourth win in eight outings.

Student, professor head Lipa Milo run qualifiers

LIPA CITY—A student and a professor ruled yesterday's regional elimination run of the 29th National Milo Marathon that started and wound up at the City Hall grounds here.

Frederick Latina, a student taking up Education at Philippine Christian University, topped the men's 20-kilometer run in one hour, 11 minutes and 53 seconds.

Myra Luz Gomos-Abueg le Abueg, a professor and track and field coach at the University of the Philippines Los Banos, completely dominated the ladies race, clocking one hour, 47 minutes and 39 seconds to lead the three women's qualifiers to the National Milo Marathon on Oct. 19.

"*Talagang pinaghandaan ko ito. Gusto kong manalo sa harap ng mga kababayan ko,*" said the 23-year-old Latina, who lives just a few hundred meters away from city hall.

Latina, who placed seventh in the Lipa City leg last year, injured his knee during the last National Open in May. He resumed training for yesterday's race only recently.

Joining Latina in the 42.195-km national marathon in Metro Manila were 41-year-old Rogelio Andenig, who finished second in 1:12:57, and third placer Esmeraldo Ondoy (1:13:05).

The grand finals will be held in partnership with Cebu Pacific, Adidas, MyGlobe, Bayview Park Hotel, Powerbar and the Department of Tourism.

A marathon champion in the past decade, the 34-year-old Abueg placed third in the 5-km run here last year.

Keeping Abueg company was Analiza Roxas (1:52:57) and third placer Elicia Domingo (1:54:13).

The biggest revelation of the race, however, was 12-year-old Jinky Calusa who won the women's 5K run in 17:36.

"In the last four months, *sa limang race na sinalihan niya nasa top 3 siya palagi,*" coach Gerome Divina said of his protégé.

Calusa beat Jane Aguilar (19:01) and Mary Grace Caritas (19:02), both 14 years old.

The top three finishers in the men's 5K were Joey Decaries (15:21), Jhun Samson and Frankie Trinidad.

Meanwhile, Lipa City Public Colleges took home the plum for the cheering competition and the biggest delegation.

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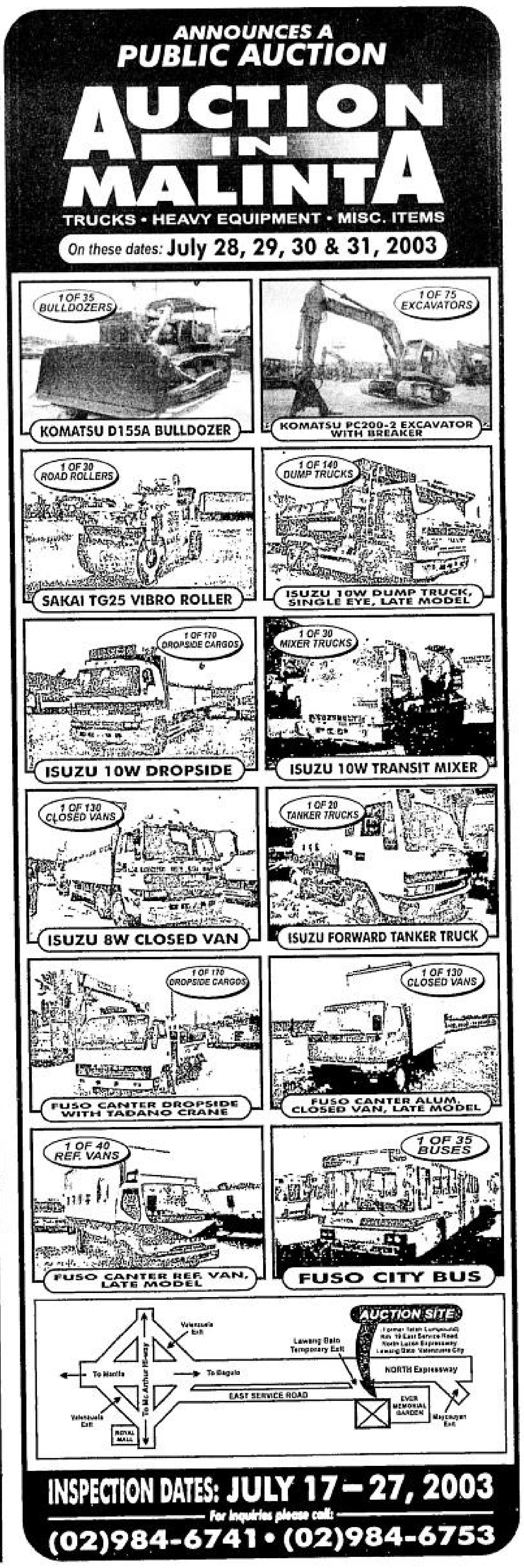

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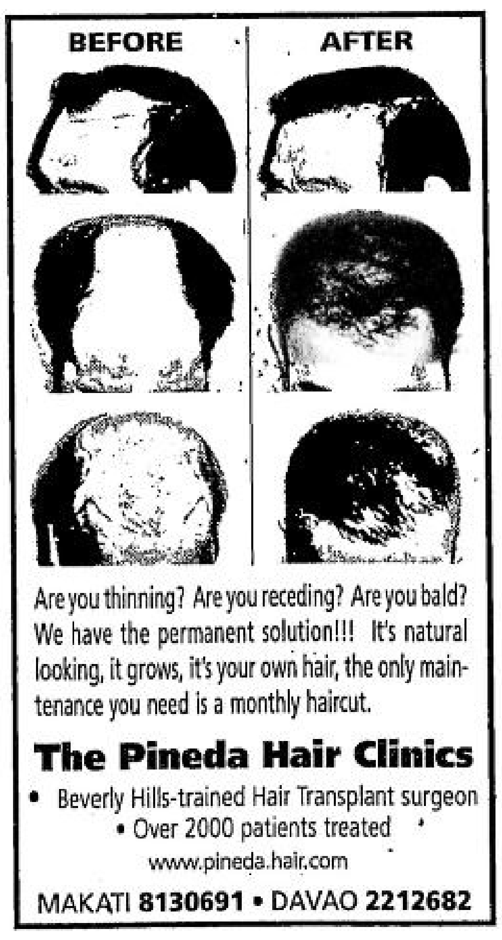

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Pagulayan forges billiards showdown vs Ge

OFFICIALLY, the Philippine flag is no longer flying in the 2003 World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales after Francisco "Django" Bustamante, the last man standing from the nine-member Filipino brigade, bowed out in the quarterfinals Saturday.

But in reality a full-blooded Filipino who is carrying Canada's colors is in a position to win the 9-ball billiards' most coveted crown.

Alex Pagulayan, who just turned 25, downed Malta's Tony Drago, 11-8, in the semifinals to forge a finals showdown Sunday with Thorsten Hohmann, the German who toppled Bustamante, 11-10, Saturday.

Bustamante's defeat was heartbreaking as last year's losing finalist allowed the 24-year-old Hohmann to draw level and post the squeaker.

The blonde-haired Hohmann, ranked third overall in the IBC World Tour, earlier proved his prowess when he bested defending champion Earl "The Pearl" Strickland, 11-4, in the other semifinal.

During the post-game interview, the Toronto-based Pagulayan showed his true colors when he greeted both the Canadians and the Filipinos who've been following the tournament.

Borrowing a line from Eminem, Pagulayan said "This looks like a job for me."

The job, of course, is to win the crown, taken by Efren "Bata" Reyes in 1999 and narrowly missed by Bustamante.

If he wins, Pagulayan will be richer by $65,000 (P3.4 million).

Pagulayan, overall champion in the Joss Tour Grand Final, also topped the elimination phase of the $300,000 (P16 million) tournament which drew 128 of the world's pool wizards.

Other members
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TIGER Woods celebrates holing an eagle from a bunker on the 7th hole. AP

When 2 eagles aren't enough

Bjorn takes 1-shot lead into last round; Woods, 11 others within 3 or less

SANDWICH, England—Tiger Woods holed a shot from the bunker to take the lead, then dropped back. Sergio Garcia chipped in from the fairway for an amazing par. And Mark Roe, who played as well as anyone, was sent home for using the wrong scorecard.

DENMARK'S Thomas Bjorn waves his cap to cheering fans. REUTERS

Another wild day at the British Open.

Get ready for a thrilling finish.

Amid all the craziness, Thomas Bjorn plodded along with a bunch of pars, good enough to grab the lead on a steamy, sunny Saturday at Royal St. George's.

The Dane shot a 2-under-par 69 that left him at 1 under through 54 holes—and the only player under par heading to the final round Sunday.

Woods electrified the crowd with a pair of eagles on the front side, surging into the lead for the first time in the tournament with a 5-under-31. But he played the treacherous back nine at 3-over to finish with a 69.

Beginning the day four strokes behind David Love III, Woods will go to the final round two strokes behind Bjorn's 215.

The leader took advantage of No. 4, a short par-5 where he made an eagle. After bogeying the sixth and making birdie at 7, he finished up with 11 straight pars to earn a spot with Love in the final group on Sunday.

"Tee to green, that's probably the best golf I've ever played," Bjorn said. "No doubt, this is where you want to be. A chance. There's some big names up there. I've got to play solid golf to beat them."

Big names?

How about Love, Woods, Garcia, Vijay Singh and Kenny Perry—all within two strokes of Bjorn.

Love held a two-stroke lead at the start of the day, only to get knocked back by a couple of three-putt bogeys on the easier stretch of holes at the start.

An eagle at No. 14 helped him salvage a round of 72 for a 213 total.

The best shot of the day was Garcia's at the 17th. After nearly losing his ball in the thick rough along the left side, he needed two whacks just to advance it to the fairway. From 60 yards away, he chipped the ball into the hole.

"That's maybe the best par I've ever made in my life," Garcia said.

No one was more unfortunate than Roe, who would have gone to the final day in contention for his first major title after shooting a 67 that equaled the best round of the tournament.

Instead, he was disqualified for failing to swap scorecards with his playing partner, Jesper Parnevik. When they signed in the scoring tent, Parnevik's 81 was on Roe's card—and Roe's score was on the Swede's card.

No one noticed until it was too late.

"How stupid is that?" Parnevik said. "We checked our scores with the scorers. We had two (Royal & Ancient) officials checking. I can't believe in the 10 minutes we were in there, they didn't catch it."

Roe would have been in the group at 214. Instead, his tournament was over.

"What can you do?" he said. "I've just played one of the greatest rounds of my life, and I can't play tomorrow."

The fans were electrified by Woods' surge to the top of the leaderboard. He began the day four strokes back, but played the front nine at 5-under.

At No. 4, a short par-5, he reached the green in two and sank an eagle putt from about 15 feet. That was merely the warm-up for a magical shot at the par-5 seventh, where he holed out his third shot from a bunker on the left side of the green to charge into the lead.

Woods threw up his arms and looked skyward as the ball dropped. Then he climbed from the sand, high-fived caddie Steve Williams and pumped his fist several times.

Then came another Tiger moment. Standing over a 30-foot putt at No. 9, he gently pushed the ball over ridge and let it curl to the right—straight into the cup.

But Royal St. George's showed its bite, too.

Woods bogeyed four of the last eight holes, including a three-putt from 30 feet at No. 13. But at least he didn't lose his ball (that happened Thursday) or three-putt from 3 feet (the lowlight Friday).

AP, AFP

MARK Roe

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Pressure tells on F1 rivals

SILVERSTONE, England—World champion Michael Schumacher and title rival Juan Pablo Montoya surrendered to the pressure of the world championship chase on Saturday when both drivers committed embarrassing errors which could prove fatal to their hopes of winning Sunday's British Grand Prix.

Schumacher's teammate Rubens Barrichello will start from pole with the surprise figure of Jarno Trulli in a Renault beside him.

But had the five-time world champion and his Colombian rival kept their cool, they could have been on the front row.

Chasing Barrichello's majestic, controlled lap of 1 minute 21.209, Montoya, running second to last, ran wide, recovered but slumped to seventh fastest 1.005 seconds behind the Brazilian.

Then Schumacher, who won here last year, dipped 0.006 seconds below Barrichello on the first sector but then ran wide at the Abbey Curve and had to be content with fifth spot, his second worst qualifying performance of the season.

"I made a mistake," confessed Schumacher who takes an eight point lead over Kimi Raikkonen in the championship into the race.

Raikkonen was third fastest just ahead of Ralf Schumacher in the second Williams.

"I slid and ran wide at Abbey and, of course, driving on the grass is not very good for traction.

"The current top runners in the championship—Ralf, Kimi and myself are close together on the grid which could be important in the race.

"But given the overall performance of the car this weekend, I expect us to be consistent and fifth place on the grid is not the end of the world.

AFP

MICHAEL Schumacher takes a bend in his Ferrari during the last qualifying session of the British Grand Prix Saturday. Schumacher was fifth fastest. REUTERS

SPORTS noodle

From page A26

ANSWERS	
1. True	4. Pig
2. Wool	5. Goose
3. Billiard balls	6. Surlyn
	7. 108

Pippen back in Bull's

CHICAGO—Scottie Pippen has returned to the Chicago Bulls, re-signing with the team he helped lead to six NBA championships.

The team will have an official announcement Sunday (Monday in Manila), Bulls spokesman Tim Hallam said Saturday night.

Terms of the deal were not released, but a source in the National Basketball Association, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was a $10 million, two-year deal.

Pippen was a seven-time All-Star in his 11 seasons with the Bulls, before leaving for the Houston Rockets before the 1999 season. Pippen has spent the last four seasons with the Portland Trail Blazers.

"We are aware that Chicago had a lot of interest in Scottie," Trail Blazers general manager John Nash said.

"I talked to him on Thursday and told him we weren't prepared to move forward at this point. We thank him for his contributions. He is a true professional."

PIPPEN: For $10 million. AP

Three weeks ago, Bulls general manager John Paxson, a former teammate of Pippen, raised the possibility that he would like Pippen to return to Chicago to finish his NBA career where it began.

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›f Team Philippines, sent to ›ports through top honcho Reyes, who was beaten by ound of 16; Ramil "Bebeng" s victim also in the final 16; ning, Lee Vann Corteza, War- Manalo and Dennis Orcull. l by US-based qualifier Ron- › Filipino who did not reach

Roy Luarca

's 67 was all for naught. AP

Roe on top f world for 10 ninutes

H, England—Mark Roe was e world as he strolled off the at Royal St. George's, blow- o the crowd and savoring a ; ovation.

glish journeyman had just greatest round of his life. He ward to returning Sunday ice to win the British Open. he'll be watching the tour- TV.

disqualified after shooting a r 67 in the third round, the n innocent scorecard error playing partner Jesper

failed to swap scorecards v teed off, so Parnevik's 81 's card—and Roe's score was de's card. The two signed off rrant figures in the scoring it anyone noticing until it e.

upid is that?" Parnevik said. d our scores with the scorers. o (Royal & Ancient) officials an't believe in the 10 minutes there, they didn't catch it."

vik's case, it really didn't was out of contention after a nd.

40-year-old Roe, who hasn't 1994, would have been just s behind leader Thomas matching the best round of nent. *AP*

jersey

ulls coveted the 37-year- pen, an unrestricted free both a defensive-minded orward, and mentor to players such as Tyson r and Eddy Curry.

than anything, I want to m feel welcome," Paxson en he discussed the possi- re-signing Pippen.

e, he would be the perfect leader."

eraged 10.8 points and a gh 4.4 assists last season Trail Blazers. But Pippen hree games in the playoffs of pain and swelling in his , operated on in March.

n didn't leave Chicago on of terms. When Coach kson left and Michael Jor- red before the 1999 sea- pen was shipped off in a -trade deal to Houston by general manager Jerry

n was named one of the) Greatest Players in 1996 an integral part of Chica- mpionship era. *AP, Reuters*

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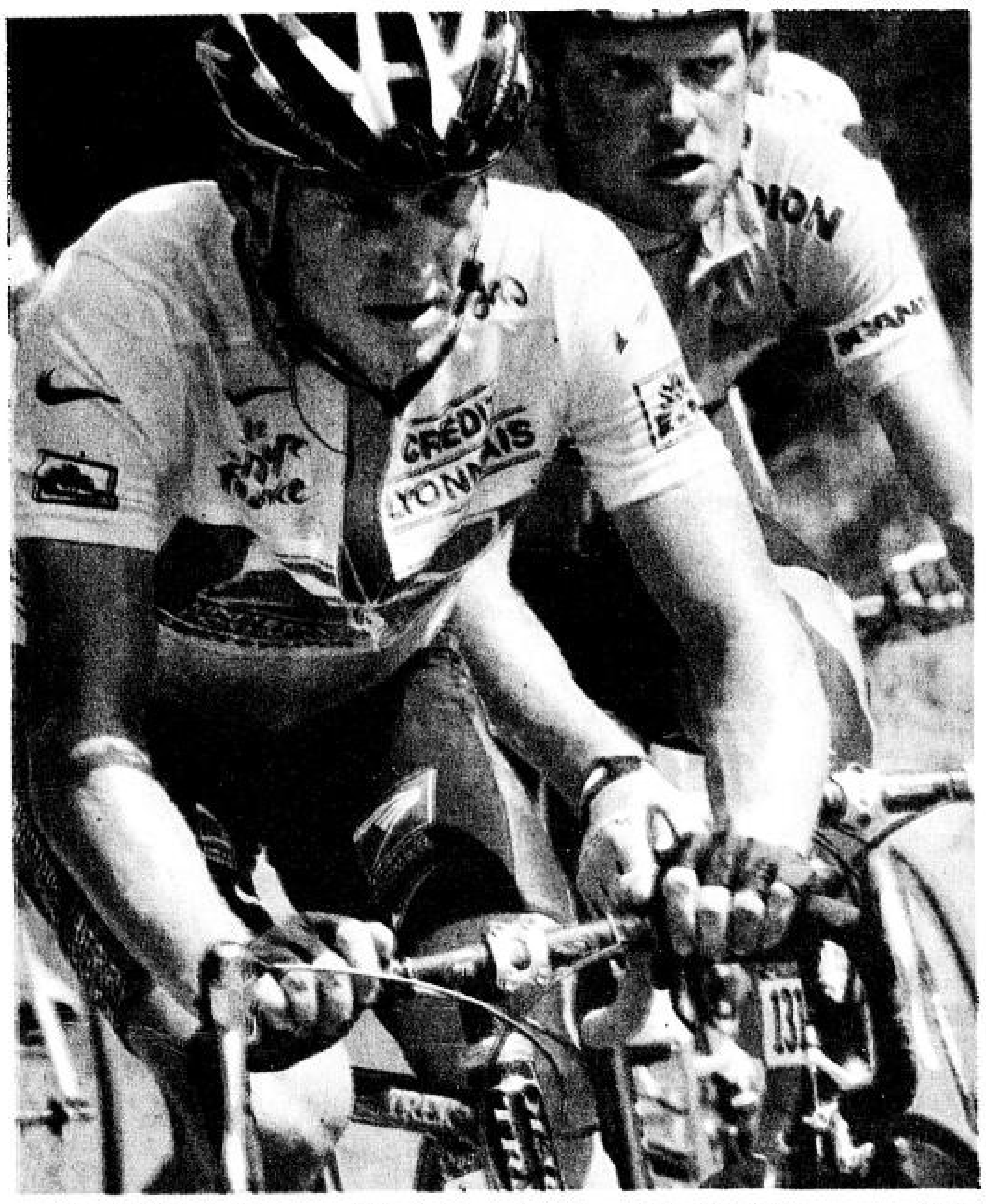
Lance struggling

Ullrich closes in, just 15 seconds off Tour leader



JAN Ullrich (right) sticks to overall leader Lance Armstrong in the 13th stage. REUTERS

AX-3 DOMAINES, France—Never, says four-time champion Lance Armstrong, has a challenger snapped this closely at his heels. Close? Heck! At a mere 15 seconds, his lead over resurgent archrival Jan Ullrich is now razor-thin.

Armstrong, already weary in the first of four potentially Tour-deciding stages in the rugged Pyrenees, watched helplessly Saturday as Ullrich powered away from him in the day's final punishing climb, eating into the 31-year-old Texan's dwindling overall lead.

After Saturday's 13th stage, and for the first time since Armstrong's first Tour triumph in 1999, cycling's showcase race was roaring into its final week too close to call.

Ullrich, looking almost fresh while Armstrong looked haggard, zoomed away in a dramatic last 9.1-kilometer (5.6-mile) climb to the ski resort of Ax-3 Domaines, high in the Pyrenees separating France and Spain.

Finishing second behind Spanish winner Carlos Sastre, the 1997 Tour champion said his next aim was to take the overall leader's jersey off Armstrong's back.

"I'm going to try to take the yellow jersey tomorrow, I'll see how I feel, and if all goes well, I'll do the maximum," Ullrich, runner-up to Armstrong in 2000 and 2001, said on France-2 television.

Faced with his challenge, "I'm just going to ride my rhythm and not let him get too far," said Armstrong, who is targeting Spanish great Miguel Indurain's record of five successive Tour wins.

Never has the Tour been so close at this stage since Armstrong first won. While Armstrong appears to be struggling, Ullrich seems to be gaining strength and confidence. He dominated a time trial on Friday, clawing back a whopping 1 minute and 36 seconds from second-placed Armstrong. *AP*

US booters face Brazil XI

MASSACHUSETTS—The defending champion United States advanced to the semifinals of the Concacaf Gold Cup and will face Brazil in the semifinals.

The Americans got four goals from Landon Donovan and another shutout from goalkeeper Kasey Keller to beat Cuba 5-0 while Brazil topped Colombia 2-0. The semifinal match is scheduled for Wednesday in Miami.

Costa Rica also reached the last four, downing El Salvador 5-2, and will face the winner of Sunday's Mexico-Jamaica match on Thursday.

On Sunday, Donovan had the first four-goal game for an American since Joe-Max Moore scored four times against El Salvador in 1993, and just the third in the history of the US national team.

Steve Ralston also scored for the US.

"It was just one of those days," Donovan said. "I have not scored a lot lately, and it gets a little bit frustrating." *AFP*

Ronaldinho to Barcelona

MADRID—Brazilian World Cup-winning midfielder Ronaldinho has signed a five-year contract with Barcelona, the Spanish first division club announced on Saturday.

Media reports said Barcelona had agreed to pay Paris St. Germain between 25 million ($28.03 million) and 30 million euros ($33.63 million) for Ronaldinho, who will have a medical on Sunday before being officially unveiled on Monday.

Barcelona had to fight off competition from Manchester United and Real Madrid for the 23-year-old, Ronaldinho. *Reuters*

Bonds hits 31st homer

BARRY Bonds of the San Francisco Giants hits a fly ball during the recent 74th All Star game. AFP

SAN FRANCISCO—Barry Bonds struck his major league-leading 31st homer of the season, the 644th of his career, to guide the San Francisco Giants to a 5-3 victory over the Colorado Rockies in the National League Saturday.

Bonds is now 16 homers from tying his godfather, Willie Mays, for third place on the all-time list. Only Hank Aaron (755) and Babe Ruth (714) are ahead of the pair.

Yorvit Torrealba also homered for the Giants, who received five solid innings from All-Star starter Jason Schmidt before he left with soreness in his arm in the sixth.

Schmidt (10-4) allowed two runs on five hits with four strikeouts and one walk. He will be re-evaluated Sunday to determine the cause of the soreness.

Four relievers completed the eight-hitter, including Tim Worrell, who pitched a scoreless ninth for his 21st save of the season.

Shawn Chacon (11-5) went four innings, giving up four runs on four hits with six strikeouts and three walks to take the loss. He also hit a two-run double while newcomer Tony Womack had two hits and drove in Colorado's other run.

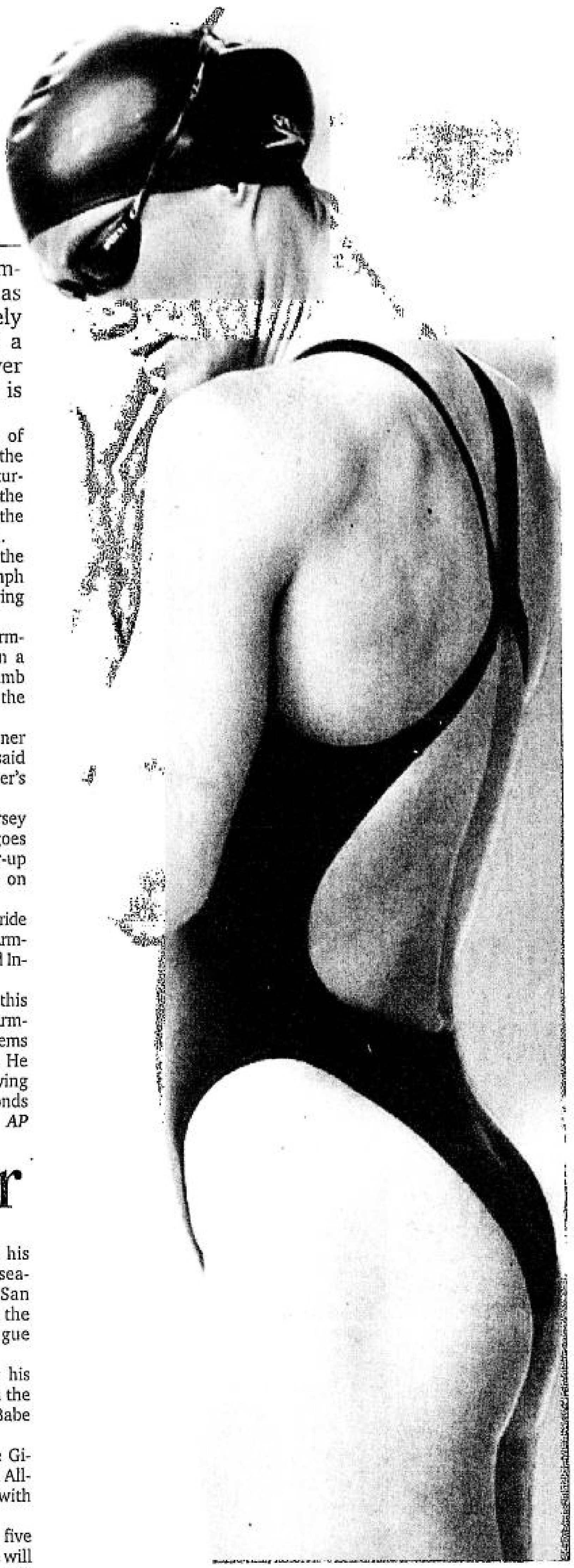
In Los Angeles, Danny Haren pitched six strong innings for his first major league win as the St. Louis Cardinals edged the Dodgers 3-1. *Reuters*

Aussies vs Lithuania

THESSALONIKI, Greece—Linas Kleiza scored a game-high 27 points Saturday to lead Lithuania over Greece 75-72 and into the finals of the World Junior Basketball Championships.

Lithuania will play for the title Sunday against Australia, which beat Croatia 97-84 behind 39 points from Andrew Bogut.

Greece, which dominated the first three quarters, fell apart in the fourth. Greece will play Croatia for third place in the 16-team tournament. *AP*



SHE'S READY: Inge De Bruijn of the Netherlands pauses during a practice session for the 10th World Swimming Championships in Barcelona, Spain, Saturday. AP

Russian tankers bag 2 more gold medals

BARCELONA, Spain—Russia added two more gold medals to its growing collection here on Saturday to put it on top of the medals table as the world swimming championships enters its second week.

Anastasia Yermakova led their synchronized swimming team to their second gold of the championships, as Yuri Kudinov completed a sweep of the men's distance titles by winning the 25-kilometer open water title in a photo finish.

The Russians have now won seven gold medals during a week which was also the most successful ever for Canada's diving team, and among the worst for their synchronized swimming squad who go home empty handed.

Alexandre Despatie shocked world and Olympic champion Tian Liang of China in the ten-meter platform to win Canada's first men's diving gold, and emulate Emilie Heymans, who won the women's gold earlier in the week.

In a nail-biting final, the 18-year-old from Montreal sealed victory with his final dive of six to take the title ahead of Mathew Helm of Australia with 23-year-old Tian struggling into bronze. *AFP*

Mighty Mike comes to boxers' rescue

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

PROFESSIONAL boxing in the Philippines is not making much progress nowadays because the business of boxing promotion is unprofitable. However, I'm perplexed at the knowledge that there are still some never-say-die promoters who continue to stage championship fights despite the big risks.

On Aug. 8, international matchmaker Jun Sarreal will promote, in coordination with Mayor Benhur Abalos, "Bakbakan sa Mandaluyong" which is for the benefit of Filipino disabled boxers. The 12-round main event will feature hometown idol Rolly Lunas, who is slated to make his first defense of the Pan Asia Boxing Association flyweight title against former Paba champion Deeden Kengkaroon of Thailand. In the other 12-round mainer, champion Johnny Lear of Cebu stakes his Philippine bantamweight crown against Alvin Felistida of Bukidnon.

"There are about 200 former boxers all over the country in need of help," said Jun Sarreal, son of the late Lope "Papa" Sarreal, the grand old man of pro boxing. "These former boxers, some of whom cannot even read and write, are now physical wrecks and in the same pitiful situation when they started—without money."

Fortunately, Sarreal added, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo had recently came to the rescue of disabled boxers by donating a hefty sum to their trust fund. Sarreal said the First Gentleman had also provided the much needed moral and financial support to former world junior welterweight champion Pedro Adigue who is stricken by cancer.

"In these hard times," Sarreal said, "Mr. Arroyo is exactly what the sports community needs. He is playing not only a vital role in Philippine sports, but also in staging the annual PSA Fiesta Fistiana for the benefit of the country's forgotten and neglected former boxers."

The Fiesta Fistiana is a charity card promoted by the Philippine Sportswriters Association, which is authorized by Republic Act 1373 to hold one tax-free boxing show every year for the benefit of destitute and disabled Filipino boxers. The proceeds of the card, up to the last centavo, go to the Disabled Filipino Boxers Trust Fund which is administered by the Games and Amusements Board, the Philippine Boxing Association and the PSA.

Launched in 1955 by the late Serafin Salvador, a Rizal congressman who had a passion for boxing and a big heart for the Filipino boxers, the Fiesta Fistiana was a popular annual event in the 1960s. In fact, the late Flash Elorde made some of his most memorable fights in the Fiesta Fistiana, donating large sums to the disabled boxers' trust fund.

The "Fistiana" was in the doldrums following Elorde's death on Jan. 2, 1985. But Speaker Jose de Venecia and Deputy Speaker Raul Daza decided to help the PSA revive the worthy undertaking in 1996 when I was the association president. On Nov. 9, 1996, the PSA revived the annual Fiesta Fistiana at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium, with then President Fidel Ramos personally witnessing Filipino challenger Rico Siodora stop American champion Cedric Mingo in the 11th round of a scheduled 12-rounder to wrest the featherweight championship of the fledgling World Boxing Federation.

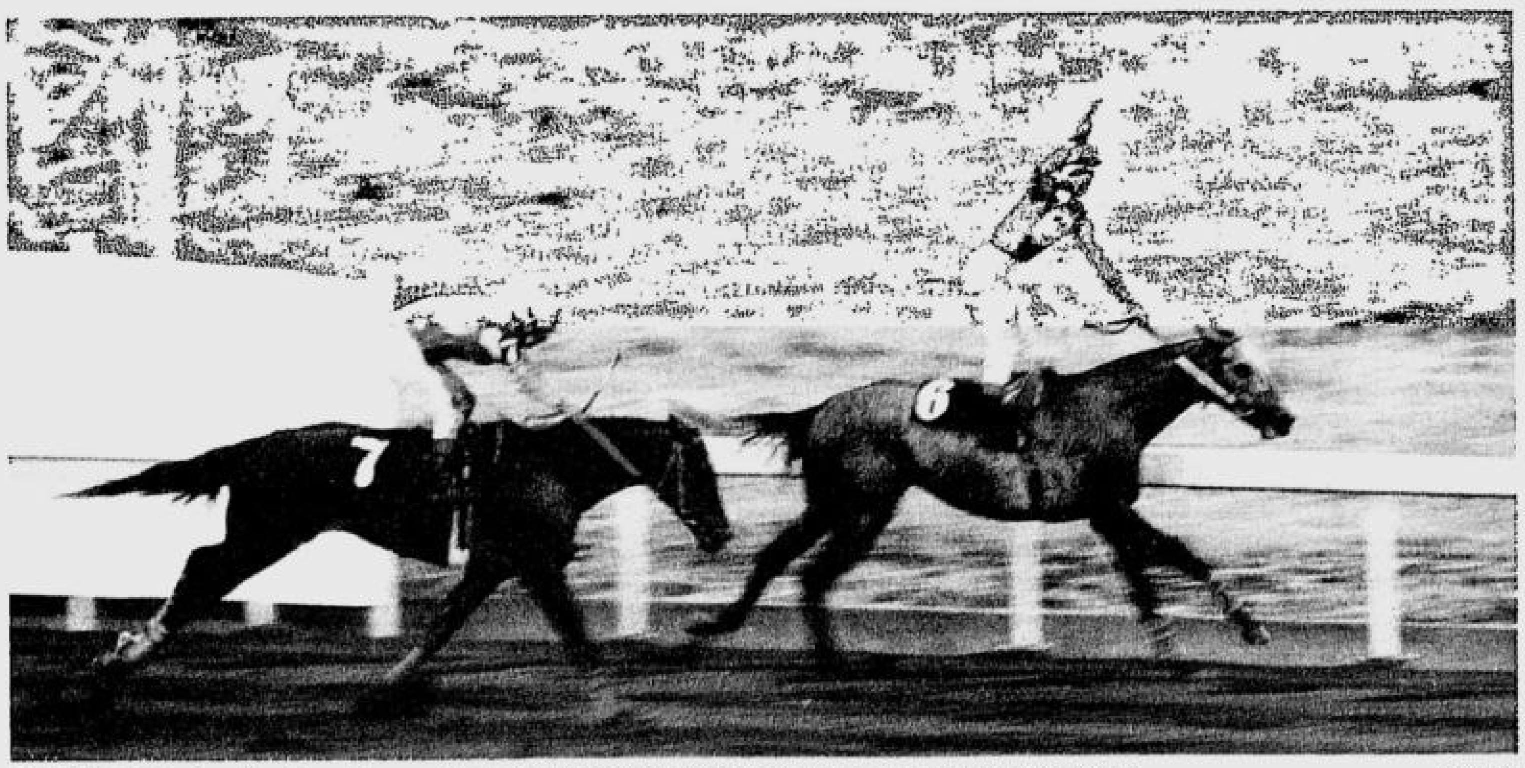
A substantial amount (close to P1 million, the biggest ever on record) was raised with the proceeds submitted to an audit by the prestigious accounting firm Sycip Gorres Velayo and Co. By submitting itself to an independent audit, the PSA set a fine example for all fund-raisers. The SGV audit was well-received and elicited a favorable response from all sectors, including the PSA's major sponsors like San Miguel Corp., Philippine Long Distance Co., Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and former PSC Chair Philip Ella Juico. Lawyer-CPA Antonio Lucero also played a key role as the volunteer financial comptroller of that highly successful 1996 Fiesta Fistiana.

Sadly, no official "Fistiana" promotions were held after that. I don't know why, but isn't that a pity?

For inquiries, call fax/phone (044) 9331214 or e-mail me at: manolo_inigo@yahoo.com.

Success Story foils West Bound

By Edwin Villanueva



HERNANDEZ raises his whip as Success Story (right) beats West Bound in the Horseman's Cup yesterday. JESS YUSON

INSTEAD of joining the Big 8, West Bound found himself in the company of local racing's "F4."

A fleet-footed grey colt named Success Story made this possible by stealing the show yesterday in the Horseman's Cup, the third and final leg of the Philippine Triple Crown series, at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

Success Story wore down the opposition by doing what he loves best—set a killing pace.

And with no one bothering to press him from the outset, the far fourth choice in the betting went on to score an upset and deny West Bound a three-leg sweep in the event.

Star jockey Jonathan "Unoh" Hernandez stood in the saddle and pumped his fist in delight as Success Story finished the 2,000-meter trek a length in front of the slow-closing West Bound, who had ruled the Cojuangco and Ongpin Cups in impressive style.

"*Pinabayaan nila sa harapan at naka-ayre nang maganda. Sabi ko mananalo na nang makalayo kami pagpasok sa rekta* (They let him set the pace. I knew we'd win the moment we pulled away entering the homestretch)," said Hernandez, who guided the Conquistarose-Sweet N Strong chestnut galloper for the first time.

Incidentally, it was Hernandez who partnered West Bound to victory in the Cojuangco Cup but a suspension denied him a chance in the Ongpin Cup and Jeffril Zarate took his place.

"*Parang* blessing in disguise *po ang nangyari at masayang masaya ako ngayon sa pagkakapanalo kay* Success Story (It's like a blessing in disguise and I'm so happy I won atop Success Story)," added Hernandez, the same rider who engineered Silver Story's TC sweep in 2001.

Success Story, third placer under Zarate in the first leg and only sixth under Fernando Raquel Jr. in the second, won P1 million for the Niles Stable, with the Zarate-driven West Bound settling for P376,750.

Stayer Secret Lover (Jeffrey Bacaycay) caught Security Master (Raquel) at the wire to grab third spot in the race which Success Story negotiated in 2:08.5 (25-24-26-25-28.5).

High Octane (Val Dilema) finished fifth then came Speed Machine (John Cordero), Iverson (Pat Dilema) and Kokopelli (Renato Gil) in that order.

West Bound failed to mirror the feat of his grand sire, Fair and Square, and seven others who had conquered all three legs of the annual contest which started 25 years ago.

Instead, West Bound joined the event's "F4" or "Frustrated 4" who won the first two legs but lost in the third.

They are Native Gift in 1978, Vixen in 1984, Family Affair in 1992 and Fight With Honor in 1995. Majority Rule denied Native Gift, Red Marshall foiled Vixen, I Have Wings stopped Family Affair, while Good Provision halted Fight With Honor.

Unlike in the previous legs where he was vexed in front by other speedballs, Success Story broke cleanly yesterday. He built an early four-length lead and kicked gobs of mud to the pursuing High Octane and Security Master when they tried to close in at the far turn.

Success Story hit the final bend with still no opposition in sight with West Bound, who broke loose and rounded the SLLP oval at least three times while working out last Saturday, coming into the picture only when the outcome was already beyond doubt.

SPORTSWATCH

Pinoy pug bows to Thai opponent

VETERAN Filipino boxer Joebar Damosmog scored a knockdown in the second round but failed to finish the job, letting International Boxing Federation Pan Pacific junior featherweight champion Fahsang 3K-Battery (Por Thawatchai) to knock him out in round six in Nakornsrithamarach Province, Thailand last Friday. Already worn down by punishing punches he absorbed from the third round, the 33-year-old Damosmog was trying recover in the sixth round when the Thai hero caught him with three devastating blows. *Rey Danseco, Contributor*

Boxer dies 1 round into fight

CEDAR CITY, Utah—A boxer died one round into a scheduled six-round bout at Cedar Raceway. Heavyweight Brad Rone took a punch from his opponent Billy Zumbrun with about five seconds left in the first round Friday night. Less than 10 seconds later, after the bell rang, Rone fell to the canvas. Rone stopped breathing and was later declared dead at Valley View Medical Center, according to Detective Ross Drishinski, Iron County Sheriff's office medical examiner. "Right now the speculation is cardiac arrest," Drishinski said. *AP*

Program for gamefowl breeders up

AS CEASEFIRE is observed with the onset of the molting season, when the adult roosters shed their old feathers to grow new ones, cockers now set their sights in the 2003-2004 season which will start in late November. In connection with this, Thunderbird Power Feeds recently launched a program to educate gamefowl breeders on feeding techniques during the molting process. "Eighty percent of a chicken's feathers are composed of protein, so, molting feeds should be rich in protein," said Dr. Elcid Paraso of Thunderbird Power Feeds and Baby Canillas of Spanichi Game Farm.

Villavicencio, Echauz top fishing

TRIPLE-V head VicVic Villavicencio and PGFF and Standard Insurance president Judes Echauz, two pillars of RP sportsfishing, shone in the two recent sportsfishing tournaments. Villavicencio netted a 152-kg blue marlin caught on 130-lb line during the Toots Echauz meet. Echauz's trophy fish, 66.8-kg yellow fin tuna, was boated with a 50-lb line, heaviest fish during the Standard Insurance tilt at Puerto Princesa, Palawan. Echauz said 43 anglers who prevailed from January to June this year will be honored during the PGFF Awards Midyear Night at Somethin' Fishy in Libis, Eastwood City on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

KGB golfest at Veterans July 24

THE KAPISANAN ng mga Golfers sa Brodkast (KGB) will hold its monthly tournament on Thursday, July 24, at the Veterans course in Quezon City. The 18-hole, medal-play tourney will have KGB signature trophies at stake for the over-all monthly champion and the winners in Class A, B and C as well as in the ladies and guest divisions. The meet is supported by Bataan Gov. Ding Roman, San Miguel Corp. and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Registration starts promptly at 6:15 a.m. The first flight tees off at 6:30 a.m.

GenSan coaching seminar today

DAYONG J. Mendoza, presently the assistant coach of the Philippine Youth Basketball team, will start a two-day coaching seminar starting at 5 p.m. today at the Conference Room of the Ryan's Lechon House in General Santos City. Mendoza, holder of a Masters Degree in Fine Arts (Painting) from UP-Diliman, was previously the assistant coach of three-time PBL champion Shark. He has earned certificates of coaching seminars from the Stanford University in San Francisco and UCLA in Los Angeles, California. He can be contacted at +639193188511. The seminar is a first in GenSan .

Red Bull unveils new name at Forum

TWO-TIME PBA champion Red Bull unveils its new name—Red Bull Barako—tomorrow when it graces the PSA Forum at Manila Pavilion along UN Avenue, Ermita. Jimwell Torion, who has been cleared to play again after a long drugs-related suspension, leads the Red Bull players who will appear in the 10:30 a.m. public service program sponsored by Pagcor, Red Bull and Agfa Color.

Ferrer, Japan expat rule triathlon tilt

FORMER national champion Michelle Montes-Ferrer turned the Enervon National Age Group Triathlon series' fourth leg into a one-woman show even as Japanese expatriate Hiroshi Takei leaned on his finishing kick to rule the men's side in Sta. Cruz, Laguna yesterday.

Ferrer, 27-year-old Pakil, Laguna native absent from the triathlon scene for three years in favor of a swimming coaching job in the Middle East, covered the 750-m swim/20-km bike/5-km run course in one hour, 25 minutes and 55 seconds, nearly 10 minutes clear of the opposition.

The 31-year-old Takei, based in Sta. Rosa, Laguna was hounded throughout by former Asian masters king Alvin Alindogan of San Pedro, Laguna and was only able to pull away in the last two kilometers.

Takei crossed the tape in 1:16:277 with Alindogan who wound up runner-up checking in one minute and 33 seconds later in the event supported by Philippine Sports Commission, Province of Laguna, Speedo, Reliv and Monoc bike frames.

Thirteen-year-old Ma. Melisa Gayle Lucas of Parañaque City grabbed runner-up honors, clocking 1:35:38.

Gejon kayoes De Ocampo

MANDAUE CITY—Showing his worth as a world-class contender, Yukka "Wiseguy" Gejon knocked out Cenon de Ocampo with eight seconds to go in the third round of a featured 10-rounder in "The Undefeated" card here recently.

The unbeaten Gejon, inspired by the presence of Mandaue Mayor Teddy Ouano and ex-Mayor Pedong Ouano, peppered De Ocampo's face with crisp jabs in the first round and had his rival backpedaling in the second.

Gejon, the WBC no. 3 contender, stepped up his attack in the third round, pinning his opponent to the ropes several times before a well-timed right to the body felled De Ocampo, who was counted out by referee Tony Pesons.

"I wanted to prove I'm ready for a big fight. I was in top shape. He never hurt me," said Gejon in a post-fight interview with the INQUIRER. Gejon is hoping to challenge WBC minimumweight champ Jose Antonio Aguirre soon.

The win improved Gejon's record to 20 wins and 1 draw with 10 KO's. De Ocampo suffered his first defeat in 7 outings.

In the other featured tenner, RP superbantam champion Jimrex Jaca hammered out a hard-earned unanimous decision against ultra-tough Jaime Barcelona of Bukidnon.

Jaca, gasping for air for most of the fight, scored a clean knockdown in the 5th round and boosted his advantage when Barcelona was deducted a point for repeated low blows in the 9th. *Salven Lagumbay*

Gabi eyes IBF title

TALENTED Diosdado "Prince" Gabi of North Cotabato will take on an undefeated Thai banger for the IBF Intercontinental 115-lb title on Aug. 31 at the Cotabato Provincial Gymnasium in Kidapawan City.

The southpaw Gabi, a former national amateur standout, will take on Thai buzzsaw Veeraphol Sakreerin, who is undefeated in eight fights with six KO's, in a 12-round main event of a card promoted by Socrates Piñol.

Gabi goes into the biggest fight of his career with 23 wins, 19 by KOs, against 2 losses.

The 24-year-old Gabi is best remembered for his gallant but losing effort against Thai legend Samson Dutchboy Gym in their 12-round clash for the WBF superfly title last May 8, 2001.

His handlers said Gabi gave Samson all he could handle in that fight, even saying the Filipino was robbed of victory.

"We are putting up this boxing event to coincide with the 58th Foundation Anniversary of North Cotabato province," said Piñol, who late last year also put up the Manny Pacquiao-Rakkiatgym bout in Davao City.

Piñol is currently working on putting up explosive supporting bouts that will complement the already exciting Gabi-Sakreerin fight. *Salven Lagumbay, Contributor*

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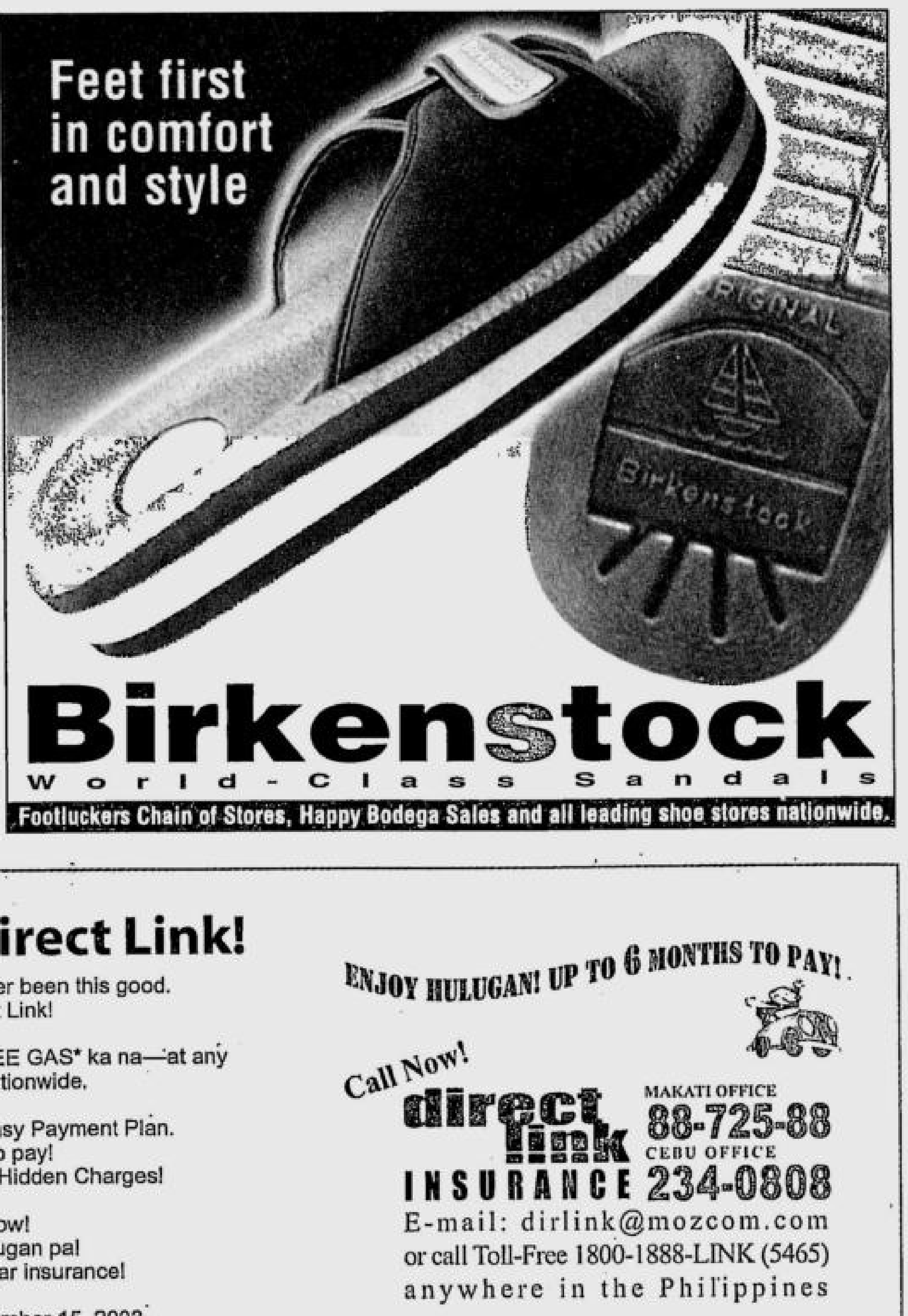

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SPORTS

PDI's Amanda Carpo (right) soars for a return while Jem Padilla watches from the backcourt. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

PDI vs Dive Shoppe for title

DIVE SHOPPE and Philippine Daily Inquirer downed separate rivals Saturday night to arrange a titular showdown in the first Sportshouse Corporate and Celebrity Cup Invitational Badminton Tournament at the SM Megamall Atrium.

The Ronald Magnaye-mentored squad of recreational divers playing out of the Aguinaldo Badminton Club marched into the final with a clean slate after posting a 5-0 victory over Bingo Bonanza Corp.

"We're very happy for making it to the finals. We expect a tough match because we are playing against INQUIRER, which is a very strong team. But we'll try to do our best to win the title," said Magnaye.

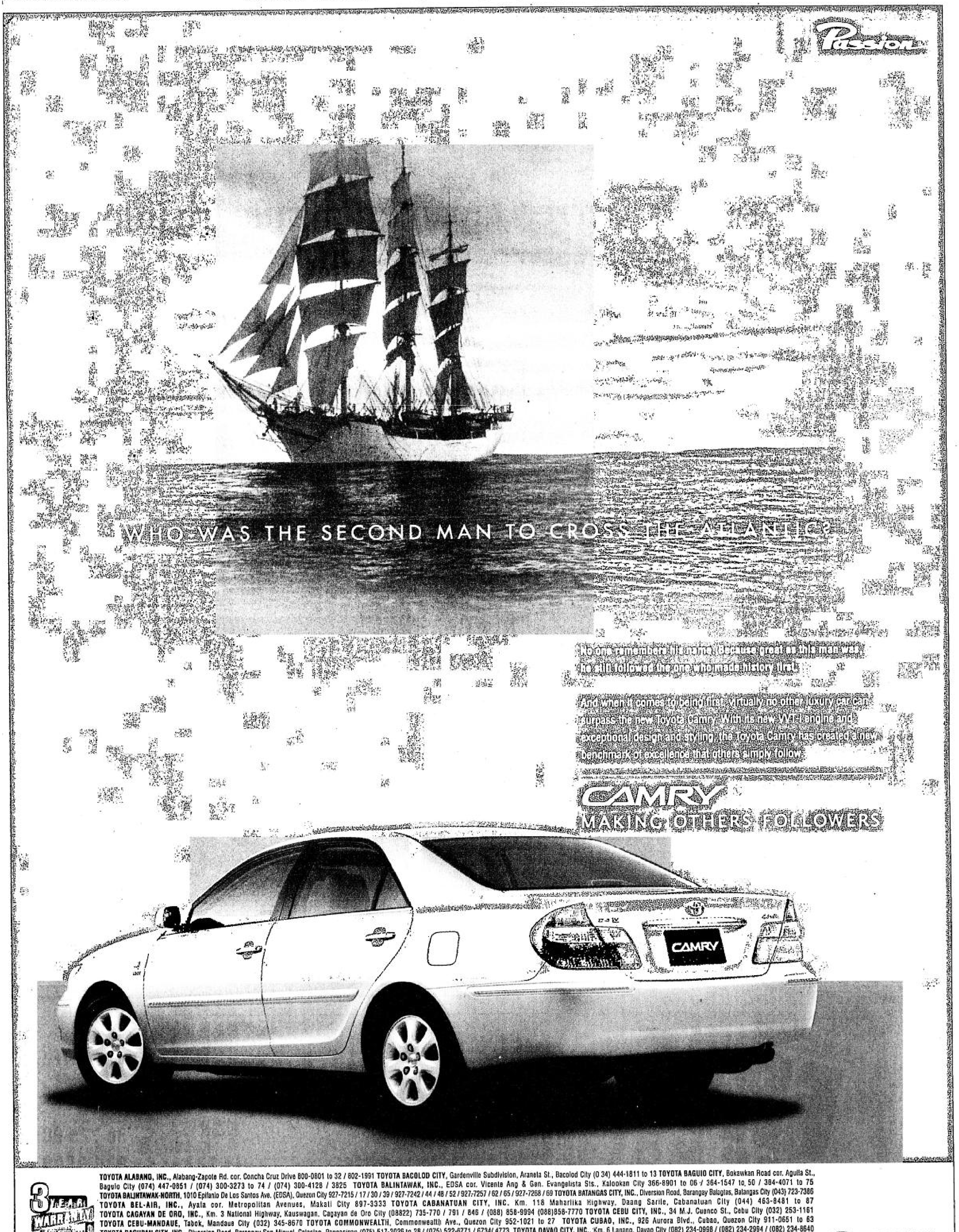
Dive Shoppe beat INQUIRER, 4-1, in the eliminations.

INQUIRER, banking on senior VP for Corporate Services and team manager Dave Valdes and Manila Polo Club player Raymond Rufino, downed Crossover-HSBC, 4-1, to advance in the championship match of this event co-presented by Dunlop Slazenger Philippines and sponsored by Quantum Global, Robson-Sportscraft, Ultramax, Lino's Food and Entertainment, and Ratsky's.

Ahead 2-1, INQUIRER went to Valdes and Rufino, whose dynamic tandem in the men's doubles 35 years and below division ended the winning streak of Mac Saldua and Paolo Magpale with a 17-14, 15-3 decision.

INQUIRER wrapped up the match after Arsenic Laurel and Isabel Barandiaran prevailed over Ginggoy Lotho and Marge Maceda, 3-11, 11-1, 13-10, in the mixed open doubles class.

PDI president and team coach Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, a former national player, and Judy Lim routed Rose Tantoco and Angel Yu, 11-0, 11-0, before Crossover-HSBC tied the count at 1-1 as Odie Bautista and Anupam Bansal defeated Raul Marcelo and John Nery, 15-5, 15-0. INQUIRER made it 2-1 courtesy of Amanda Carpo and Gem Padilla, who scored an 11-1, 11-6 victory over Christine Magsusi and Theresa Miranda in the ladies' doubles 35 years and below category.



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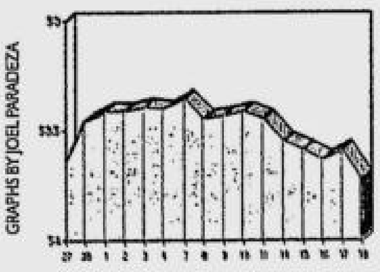

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As of 5 p.m., July 18, 2003

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per ounce Hong Kong, July 18, 2003

STOCK MARKET

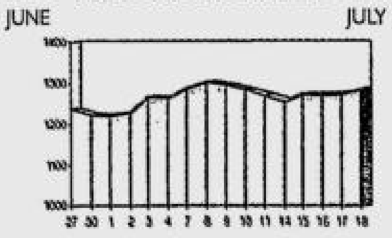
Stocks seen to rise

THE MAIN stock index is seen attempting to climb back to the 1,300 level this week, fueled by the improving economic and corporate earnings picture, analysts said.

Although buying momentum has waned compared to

STOCKS/ B4

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Tighter tax rule on AUVs to take effect on Sept. 8

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue will issue today a regulation setting Sept. 8 as the final date of effectivity of the tighter policy on 10-seater vehicles.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said his agency would also release today the results of the re-measurement of the 19 vehicles that have been granted excise tax exemptions.

Only those passing the bureau's measurement criteria would continue to be entitled to tax breaks. The privilege is given to 10-seater models, particularly the so-called Asian utility vehicles that have a high local content.

The 19 models were measured using specific parameters for catalogue, seatbelt and measurement.

While all models passed the specifications set by their respective brochures, one model failed the seatbelt standard while several are expected to fall short of the requirement for space and width to qualify as a 10-seater.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the government had decided to set the ultimate date for the implementation of the tighter 10-seater regulation to aid car assemblers as well as the public in making their business and purchasing decisions.

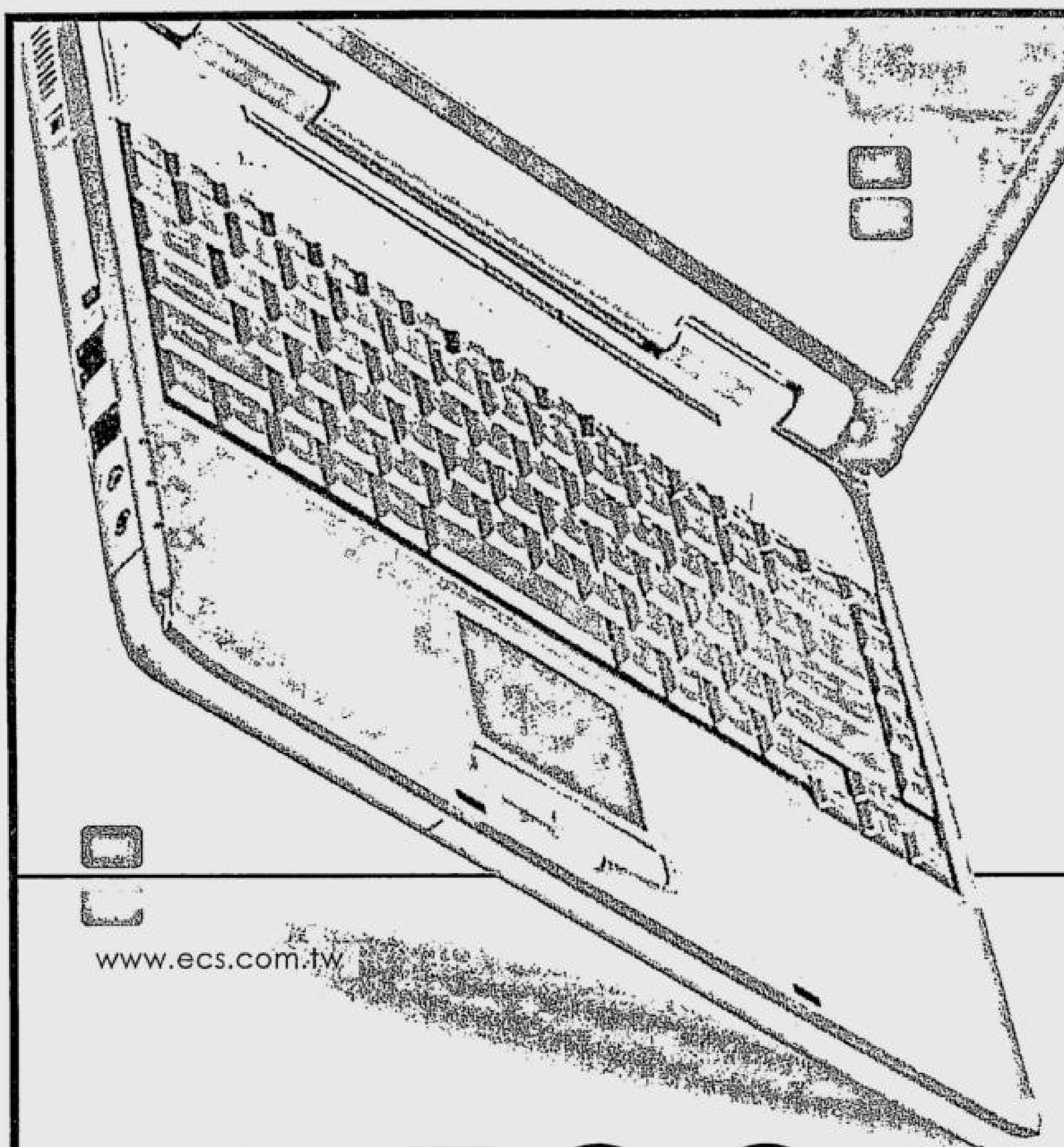
"Regardless of what happens in the pending bill before Congress to rationalize the automobile taxes, the BIR would be implementing the revenue regulation," the finance chief said.

The regulation would be applied to existing inventory or units already in the Philippines, whether in the Bureau of Customs, assembly plants, warehouses or showrooms as of Sept. 8. The list of inventory on this date should be submitted to the BIR not later than Sept. 13.

"All importers and/or assemblers shall submit a duly notarized list of inventory on-hand of completely assembled automobiles, including completely knocked-down and semi-knocked down units that are located within the assembly plant or warehouses or Customs' premises as of Sept. 8 indicating therein the engine, body and chassis numbers," said the revenue regulation.

Assemblers and importers must exhaust their inventory before Sept. 8 while consumers must take advantage of the period to buy any exempted 10-seater.

Otherwise, models that would not pass the BIR standards would be subjected to the existing excise tax rate of 15, 35, 50 and 100 percent depending on the fuel type and engine displacement unless Congress passed a law that would shift the basis of taxation to a vehicle's value.



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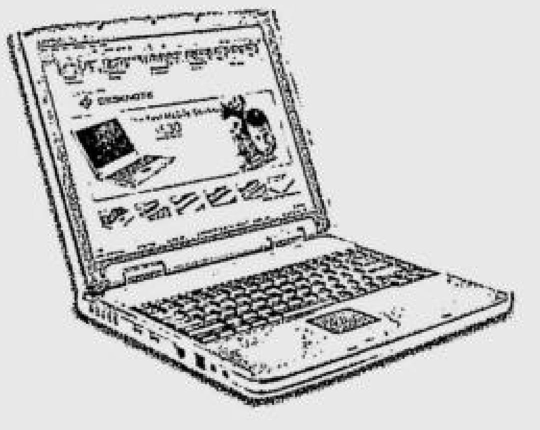

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BSP preparing tougher rules on banks' common trust funds

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said it would overhaul this year the rules governing common trust funds of banks, which involve about P700 billion in investments, to rid the system of weaknesses that led to bank failures in the past.

Once the new rules are in place, the BSP said it could already lift the 10-percent reserve requirement on new common trust placements and take out the ceilings imposed on loans, including the single borrower's limit and the cap on the banks' real estate exposure.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the central bank had been working with the Bankers' Association of the Philippines in formulating the new rules to be applied on banks' trust departments.

The banks' trust operations are supposedly an independent investment function. In reality, however, trust funds are being "recklessly mixed with the funds earmarked for lending," according to a BSP official.

"The banking system's trust departments have total resources of between P400 billion and P700 billion. It is supposed to be independent but has been abused by some. This is why we have to tighten the regulations and rationalize the rules," said Reyes.

The new rules are on the final stages of preparation, according to the BSP official.

The central bank official said the concept of trust must be strengthened. Banks, he said, should be responsible for the investment entrusted to them "like a good father to a family."

Reyes said the new regulations would provide for the use of net asset value as the basis of pricing the investments on a daily basis, instead of applying predetermined or fixed interest.

The rules will also require the banks' trust department to focus their investments on high-grade debt papers such as government securities or rated-A commercial papers.

With the new rules, the banks' trust departments will have to separate the new investments from the old ones, which will remain covered by current standards and regulations.

The banks, according to Reyes, have the option to either continue subjecting the old trust accounts to the existing ceilings and reserves or to pay out existing investments so they can start on a clean slate.

"The idea is for banks to observe the independence of the trust department and to make sure that funds entrusted to them are invested only in grade A securities. We have to put an end to irregularities in the CTFs," said Reyes.

In the past, banks have been tapping into their common trust funds to finance their foreign exchange trading. There have also been cases of bad investments using common trust funds.

"We want a system that is more transparent so that investors will feel safer and will be more comfortable in putting their funds in banks' trust accounts," said Reyes.

The BSP official admitted that as risks diminished with the implementation of the new rules, returns on investments could also become less attractive.

"But investors should eventually be enticed by the assurance that their money is being invested safely," said Reyes.

PLDT cuts Touch Card rate by half

By Abigail L. Ho

TAKING advantage of the country's large base of cellular subscribers, dominant carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. recently slashed by almost half its rates for calls to mobile phones using its Touch Cards to P6.50 per minute from P12 per minute.

The move is expected to improve PLDT's revenue, especially in the prepaid card category, PLDT vice president for marketing Joaquin San Agustin said in a statement over the weekend.

The PLDT Touch Card is a prepaid call card that can be used in almost any touch-tone phone, including PLDT pay phones. Instead of billing the calls on the phone used, the actual cost of a call is deducted from the value contained in the card.

The card can also be used to make calls from cellular phones in the network of PLDT cellular subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. This means that subscribers of both Smart and sister firm Pilipino Telephone Corp.'s Talk 'N Text brand can use the Touch Card in making calls.

Apart from reducing call rates to mobile phones, San Agustin said another strategy that PLDT used to help increase the usage of its Touch Cards was the introduction of the P50 card.

PLDT Touch Cards used to come only in P100, P200, P300 and P500 denominations.

"PLDT's Touch Cards are usually used by people with loved ones living in the provinces that they want to call as often as possible," he said.

Making the rates more affordable as well as providing a low-denomination card could possibly increase its usage and help PLDT improve its revenue stream from prepaid card products.

GMA-7 posts 463% increase in 6-mo. profit

By Elena R. Torrijos

GMA Network registered a 463-percent increase in profit in the first semester of this year to P576 million from P102 million in the same period last year.

In a statement, the second-leading broadcast network reported that its gross revenue jumped 76 percent to P3.013 billion from P1.713 billion last year with both TV and radio airtime posting huge gains.

GMA senior vice president for corporate services Felipe Yalong expressed confidence that the network could reach its P1-billion profit target by the end of the year.

"GMA's monthly net income has gone beyond the P100-million mark for the fourth consecutive month. If the trend continues plus the factor that (more income) can be brought in by the increase in our advertising rates starting this month, we will easily hit P1 billion by the end of this year," Yalong said.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization in the first half stood at P1.18 billion or 111 percent higher than the P561 million in the same period last year.

Operating expenses for the first six months rose 36 percent to P1.424 billion with production cost and talent fees taking the lion's share of the increase because of new programs and specials.

GMA's revenue for May and June surpassed the P600-million monthly revenue mark. For May, the Network registered P669 million in revenue or 104 percent more than last year's comparative figure. In June, the network's gross revenue hit P632 million or 72 percent more than the year-ago level.

GMA said it was expecting an improvement in its performance in the near future by expanding to the international market and reopening its UHF Channel 27.

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Net Income After Tax	Php 109,572,288
Total Assets	Php1,751,632,255
Total Liabilities	Php 864,742,065
Total Stockholders' Equity	Php 886,890,190
Paid Up Capital Stock	Php 500,000,000
Reserve for Unearned Premiums	Php 430,309,832
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Red tape at Ombudsman, etc.

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

GRAFT and corruption are not dragging this country down. Red tape is. The dictionary defines red tape as "official routine or procedure marked by excessive complexity which results in delay or inaction."

At the Ombudsman last week, I found out what the definition really meant. I was there because I needed a certified true copy of a document. The office is now in a spanking brand-new four-story concrete building at Agham Road, Quezon City. You enter the lobby through a scanner. You are met at the other side by a burly security guard, who gives you a quick frisk. Then, you register at the desk indicating the floor you are going to, in my case, the records section on the second floor. On a logbook, you inscribe on a very narrow space your name, address, person to see, purpose of visit, time, signature. You hand over your ID card (the one with your picture) and you get a visitor's card, color-coded to the second floor.

At the second floor, you are confronted by another security guard, protecting a small desk and also armed with a logbook. You inscribe again the same data you gave at the lobby. The guard gives you a slip of paper where you again inscribe your name, person to visit. This slip has to be signed, or "validated," by the person you see. You give this slip to the lobby guard on your way out.

If you have to go to another floor, say, the third, you cannot go there straight from the second. You have to go back to the lobby, hand over the second floor visitor's card and get a third floor visitor's card. At the third floor, you are again met by a security guard and the whole process at the second floor is repeated.

I told the receiving clerk at the counter of the records section what I wanted. A lady appeared. She said I had to put my request in writing. I was also to indicate what I needed the document for. Why should I tell you what I needed the document for, I asked. Procedures, she said. I asked for a sheet of paper and wrote out my request and the reason for the request. Then, I was asked to come inside.

Another lady explained that the paper would be ready in three days. Why should it take three days to pull out the paper from the shelf, run it through the copier, and certify it, I asked. Procedures, I was told. I pleaded that I needed the paper the following day. She asked me to call the following morning. I was told that if I sent someone else to pick up the paper, he had to have my written authority.

At 10 the following morning, I was back. The releasing clerk gave me a "payment slip" which I brought to the cashier. I paid P28. I showed the receipt to the releasing clerk who took down the details of the receipt. I finally got the document. Why couldn't they scrap all that red tape and give the document to anybody who paid P28?

Two days later, I was at the Court of Appeals to file a petition. First, you go to Receiving Section where the original and 10 copies (I cannot imagine why the court needs so many copies) are marked "Received" and initialed by someone. Then, you bring the entire file to Filing Section where the clerk fills out a "payment slip" which you present to the cashier. I paid P1,030 for which I got, not one, not two, but three hand-written receipts.

I remembered when I went to the Supreme Court some years back to get a copy of a decision. The cashier was right by the front gate, which I thought was a good thing. I was told to go the Records Section, which was way at the back of the building, a good 50 meters from the cashier.

The lady who attended to me gave me a "payment slip" (this must be a standard government form). I brought the slip to the cashier where I paid P52. Then I was to come back to her to take delivery of the document.

Having spent my entire insurance career in the private sector, I detest office inefficiency. Insurance is the most competitive business ever invented. As a result, it is most efficient. Every insurance office tries to be more efficient than the next.

On the other hand, the government is an absolute monopoly. It does not have to be efficient. In fact, the red tape I waded through was planned for maximum inefficiency. Red tape (I call it, planned inefficiency) must be afflicting all levels of government in the country. If so, what I went through must be happening a million times a day.

Red tape breeds graft and corruption. So, if red tape is cut, you also cut graft and corruption. But will government offices themselves cut red tape? Don't bet on it.

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Not so loco over Roco

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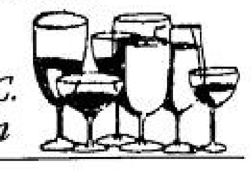

Victor C. Agustin

DURING the Estrada years, a Bangko Sentral official who was then assigned in Washington DC came crying to us, telling us of a rather unpleasant encounter she had with the wife of then Sen. Raul Roco.

Roco and his wife were then attending the joint meeting of the IMF-World Bank boards, and Roco, being then the chair of the Senate banking committee, was being extended the usual courtesies that the Bangko Sentral accords to VIPs like him. The courtesies also extended to the wife, naturally.

To make a long story short, the Bangko Sentral official, a woman with a managing director rank, cried because she was asked by Mrs. Roco to tie Mrs. Roco's shoe laces inside a moving limousine when she had to accompany Mrs. Roco on a shopping/sightseeing trip.

Two other Bangko Sentral officials, one of them F. Enrico Alfiler, were with us when the Bangko Sentral official recounted the incident.

The official, who felt she had been treated like a maid, had wanted us to write about the incident, but our advice to her then, partly out of respect for the senator, was to charge it to experience. The wife probably had a bad back, so she had to require assistance, no matter how ungracious the request was phrased, was our hasty explanation.

We now recount the incident since there have been more disturbing aspects about the Roco character—one is the alleged hiring of a personal driver for Mrs. Roco paid out of education department funds—that are coming to light, now that the election season is upon us.

Columnist and martial law exile Nelson Navarro has loads of stories about how Roco had supposedly betrayed his former principal, Ninoy Aquino, but those were dangerous days that bred bizarre behavior.

Frankly, what has troubled us more, given Roco's supposed probity, is how his law firm could have accepted a monthly retainer contract with the Bangko Sentral while Roco was chairing the Senate banking committee and, at the same time, accept another retainer from a Banco Filipino sister company and then advise Banco Filipino that, yes, the present Bangko Sentral is also liable for the multibillion-peso damage that the old central had supposedly inflicted on Banco Filipino.

Roco's alibi for this double-dealing behavior is that he left day-to-day management of his law firm to his partners, especially when he joined the GMA Cabinet. In other words, he did not know what his law partners had been doing.

Now, according to a new complaint filed with the Ombudsman, it turns out that while edu-

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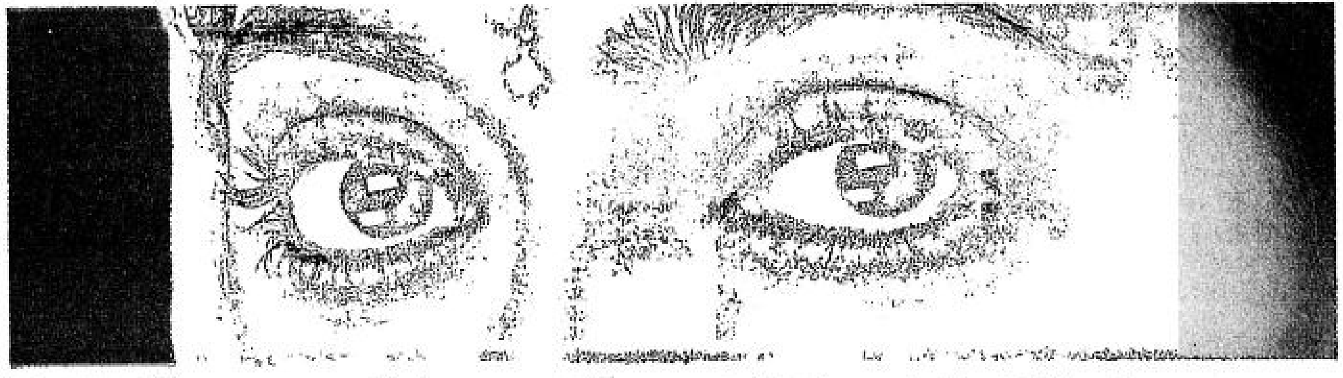

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Local bourse set to list real estate-backed securities

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is paving the way for the listing of real estate investment trusts (REITs) in another attempt to diversify its product offerings.

PSE chair Alicia Rita Arroyo said the listing department was set to release this week a draft of the rules to allow the listing of REITs, a portfolio of liquid securities that represent ownership investment shares of commercial real estate properties.

"It will allow us to invest in a basket of stocks on real estate," Arroyo said.

Asked why the PSE was planning to introduce the listing of REITs when the real estate sector was still in a slump, Arroyo said this product could contribute in generating funds for the sector.

"It provides liquidity by getting cash out of a pool of real estate assets," she said.

A REIT is a company that buys, develops, manages and sells real estate assets, allowing investors to chip in funds into a professionally managed portfolio of real estate properties.

However, Arroyo said there were some taxation kinks that would have to be resolved to allow REITs to flourish, particularly the burdensome documentary stamp tax.

Capital market participants have long been asking Congress to slash the DST to encourage the secondary trading of financial instruments.

In the United States, REITs qualify as pass-through entities or companies that are able to distribute the majority of income cash flow to investors without taxation at the corporate level provided certain conditions are met. As its main function is to pass profits on to investors, a REIT's business activities are generally restricted to generation of property rental income.

Another major advantage of listing REITs is that assets can be easily liquidated into cash, compared to traditional private real estate ownership which are not very easy to convert into cash. One reason for the liquid nature of REIT investments is that its shares are primarily traded on major exchanges, making it easier to buy and sell REIT assets/shares than to buy and sell properties in private markets.

At present, there are more than 300 publicly traded REITs operating in the United States with assets of more than $300 billion.

Approximately two-thirds of these trade on the national stock exchanges.

PSE, Treasury to implement agreement on secondary trading of gov't debt papers

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange and the Bureau of Treasury are ready to implement by September this year a new arrangement allowing the local bourse to act as "market maker" for treasury bills issued during primary auctions.

PSE chair Alicia Rita Arroyo told reporters that while the arrangement had been approved by both parties long ago, the local bourse first had to prepare the brokers on how to handle the activity.

"We want to make sure first that our brokers have backroom certification for the trading of these securities," the PSE chief said.

The new arrangement, which seeks to develop a more active secondary market for government securities, allows the PSE to tie up with accredited government securities dealers (GSEDs) to get a share of securities awarded through primary auctions.

The dealers will be asked to carve out a certain amount while the PSE will consolidate its own bid price that the GSED would submit during the fortnightly auction of treasury bills with maturities of 91 days, 182 days and 364 days.

So far, Arroyo said the PSE has accredited Deutsche Bank to act as its custodian of funds.

PSE president Ernest Leung said: "The share we will get in the primary auction will be the source of the listing. We will build our inventory based on minimum value."

The PSE aims to act as "market maker" by giving small savers the option to buy government securities in the secondary market. The PSE is the enabling system for the trading of those securities.

As the PSE draws more interest, the system is seen to improve the pricing for government issuances since the market would be widened.

The stock exchange earlier launched its own fixed-income board and listed the government's small-denominated treasury bills. The SDTs are not being actively traded, however, as investors usually preferred to hold on to these to lock in gains from high interest rates at the time of issuance.

Last week, it also launched a dollar-denominated board initially limited to shares of dominant carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), which is also listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Doris C. Dumlao

Cocktales...

From page B3

cation secretary, Roco had been quietly farming out work to his partners and hiring lawyers—10 compañeros, to be exact—from his own law firm.

If this is correct, then Roco's Banco Filipino/Bangko Sentral alibi—"I left day-to-day management of the law firm when I joined Congress/Cabinet"—crumbles like a house of cards.

Whacked at Wack Wack

THERE is no official announcement yet but the board of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club has decided to suspend aspiring taipan William Gatchalian for having attacked a fellow golfer.

The decision was reached after a series of tumultuous board hearings where, at one point, Wack Wack chair Benjamin Abalos threatened to resign if the board pushed through with its original decision to expel Gatchalian from the exclusive club.

According to the grapevine, the nine-member board in last Friday's meeting instead decided to suspend the plastics tycoon for two and a half years.

Abalos, a golfing buddy of Gatchalian, had lobbied for the lighter sentence, arguing that Gatchalian and Greg Yu, the victim, had already reached an amicable settlement.

Gatchalian was seen playing golf in Wack Wack Saturday morning, apparently still unaware of his suspension.

The other Aguirres

THE WIFE of businessman Pedro Aguirre is not suffering from Alzheimer's disease, contrary to what was alleged in the July 16 Cocktales column, this according to former Comelec Chair Harriet Demetriou.

Demetriou, counsel to and niece of Mrs. Aguirre, said her client, who is 75, chose to live with one of her daughters rather than with her husband. Demetriou furnished a handwritten statement from Mrs. Aguirre, dated Sept. 28, 2002, saying she did so "to give me time to recuperate."

Heard through the grapevine

ICTSI and Darby Overseas Investments, the venture capital company of former US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, have struck up a partnership of sorts to fund ICTSI's Latin/South American expansion.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Stocks seen ...

From page B1

that which spurred strong rallies in the past, analysts said sentiment remained largely positive, thus favoring bargain-hunting instead of profit-taking.

On Friday, the Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed at 1,284.99 or 1.11 percent higher than a week ago, boosted by the better-than-programmed budget deficit for the first half of the year.

Last week, the government announced that it has kept a tight lid on the budget deficit for the third month in a row, incurring a shortfall of only P4.2 billion in June as against the P15-billion target for the month, bringing the six-month gap to P79.6 billion as against the P102-billion target.

"Chart-wise, Friday's close at 1,284.99 suggests a retest of the 1,300-1,310 levels following its correction in the early part of the week to a low of 1,249.76," said Jonathan Ravelas, chief market strategist at Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

"A close above the 1,315 level could call for further tests toward the 1,400-1,450 levels and confirm the correction at 1,249.76 as complete. Failure to rally above the 1,300 level would render a retest of the 1,250 level," he said.

Philstocks.net said the market would stay in a consolidation mode in the coming sessions, as buying momentum has slowed down.

"Gains may still hold as the prevailing positive sentiments will keep aggressive sellers off. A lot of hopes are clinging on the second-quarter corporate earnings results," Philstocks.net said.

It said investors were likely to be sensitive to earnings disappointments after a solid second-quarter rally. It noted that so far, the number of earnings warnings for the period leading up to the reporting season had been light and thus investors are expecting results to at least match consensus estimates or better. *Doris C. Dumlao*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 18, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	19	19.5	19	19.5	275,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	48.5	48	48	460,800
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	4,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35	35	34.5	35	62,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	202,400
Philippine National Bank	24.5	24.75	24.5	24.75	87,400
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	20,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	14	13.5	14	40,500
Security Bank Corp.	18	18.5	18	18.5	279,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	21.25	21.5	21.25	21.5	13,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.52	1.56	451,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3	3	3	3	2,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1425	1425	1425	1425	610
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.46	1.64	1.38	1.5	6,377,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1050	1050	1050	1050	40
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22	22.25	22	22.25	48,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.7	0.7	3,970,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	710	725	710	715	117,510
Ipeople Inc.	0.86	0.92	0.86	0.92	330,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.065	0.046	0.0575	91,300,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.027	0.034	0.027	0.03	40,800,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	40,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.57	0.59	0.57	0.57	8,670,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	575	585	575	575	580,110
Ivantage Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	150,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.015	0.013	0.015	250,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	535,700
Manila Electric Co. B	17.75	18.5	17.75	18.25	2,103,200
Petron Corp.	2.28	2.3	2.26	2.26	3,192,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	35,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	1,890,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.46	1.5	1.46	1.5	250,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.95	656,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.38	0.41	0.38	0.41	350,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	30,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	4,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	78,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4	4	4	4	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.75	18	17.75	17.75	74,300
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	30,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	51.5	52	51.5	52	129,200
San Miguel Corp. B	59.5	60	58.5	60	267,100
Universal Robina Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	1,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.23	0.27	0.23	0.27	630,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	310,000
Ayala Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.8	4.85	23,449,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	25,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.035	0.037	0.035	0.036	18,500,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	5,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2	2.02	1.96	2	125,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.4	102,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.72	0.79	0.71	0.78	43,460,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.12	800,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.18	950,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	1,200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.2	1.08	1.18	2,000,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17.25	17.75	17.25	17.5	816,800
Ionics Inc.	1.74	1.94	1.74	1.88	5,364,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.74	124,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.011	0.013	0.011	0.013	12,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.76	0.77	3,360,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	12,500,000
Music Corp.	0.46	0.49	0.46	0.48	20,440,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.09	0.15	0.09	0.12	260,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	190,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.36	0.4	0.36	0.36	990,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.055	0.06	0.055	0.06	. 800,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15	15	15	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.6	0.65	0.6	0.64	7,170,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.44	550,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.28	1,470,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	510,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	192,100
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0022	0.0026	0.0022	0.0026	45,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6.2	6	6.1	5,098,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.2	0.25	0.2	0.25	470,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	7,790,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.245	4,950,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.22	1.16	1.16	9,615,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	50,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.6	0.63	0.6	0.63	30,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.145	0.185	0.145	0.185	8,400,000
City & Land Developers	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	10,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	1,090,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	7,959,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	200,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	114,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	3,580,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	700,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	22,500,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0034	0.0034	0.0032	0.0032	142,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	38,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	400,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	8,276,050	56,227,610.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	614,634,020	722,080,150.00
PRO	45,662,000	96,465,870.00
Mining	118,830,000	1,596,700.00
OIL	203,050,000	1,262,200.00
GRAND TOTALS :	990 452 070	877,632,530.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	459.48	UP 3.85
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,840.03	UP 6.32
PRO	557.29	UP 16.14
Mining	1,082.82	DOWN 4.34
OIL	1.37	UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	738.45	DOWN 0.62
Composite	1,284.99	UP 10.79

NO. OF ADVANCES: 53; NO. OF DECLINES: 15; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 34; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 102; NO. OF TRADES: 3,648

CURRENCIES

July 18, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.892777	1.000000	53.593000
Japan	Yen	0.007515	0.008418	0.451100
United Kingdom	Pound	1.425408	1.596600	85.566600
Hongkong	Dollar	0.114469	0.128217	6.871500
Switzerland	Franc	0.651235	0.729448	39.093300
Canada	Dollar	0.638611	0.715308	38.335500
Singapore	Dollar	0.506684	0.567537	30.416000
Australia	Dollar	0.582183	0.652103	34.948200
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.368172	2.652590	142.160300
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.238074	0.266667	14.291500
Brunei	Dollar	0.505250	0.565931	30.329900
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000121	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021430	0.024004	1.286400
UAE	Dirham	0.243078	0.272272	14.591900
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.120100	60.029500
Argentina	Peso	0.320566	0.359066	19.243400
Brazil	Real	0.312816	0.350385	18.778200
Denmark	Kroner	0.134491	0.150643	8.073400
India	Rupee	0.019354	0.021678	1.161800
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.234973	0.263193	14.105300
Mexico	New Peso	0.086055	0.096390	5.165800
New Zealand	Dollar	0.519963	0.582411	31.213200
Norway	Kroner	0.119363	0.133699	7.165300
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015491	0.017352	0.929900
South Africa	Rand	0.115627	0.129514	6.941000
Korea	Won	0.000758	0.000849	0.045500
Sweden	Kroner	0.108360	0.121374	6.504800
Syria	Pound	0.021257	0.023810	1.276000
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026021	0.029146	1.562000
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000560	0.000627	0.033600

INTEREST RATES

July 18, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 18-Jul-03	MART1 17-Jul-03
1 Month	6.25	6.2714
3 Months	6.2607	6.2857
6 Months	7.2518	7.2696
1 Year	7.8703	7.8687
2 Years	8.71	8.7667
3 Years	9.3133	9.4467
4 Years	9.8417	9.965
5 Years	10.088	10.1903
7 Years	10.95	11.0383
10 Years	11.371	11.4208
20 Years	11.9408	11.9492
25 Years	12.315	12.36

SOURCE : MART/BLOOMBERG

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Alabang A/B	1.230M/1.230M	Fontana A/B/C/D	Pls call/50 000	Riviera "A"	130 000
Camp John Hay Golf	220 000	Forest Hill A/B/C	180/220/240	Sta. Elena A	1.35M
Canlubang Golf	500 000	Manila Polo	2.2M	Sherwood	65 000
Celebrity	170 000	Manila Southwoods "A"/B	430/550	Valley Golf	280 000
Eagle Ridge C	350 000	Mt. Malarayat "A"	250 000		
BUYING		Eastridge B	100 000	Riviera "A"	120 000
Baguio Country Club	650 000	Forest Hills "A"/B/C	180/200/225	Sta. Elena A/B	Pls call
Camp John Hay Golf	220 000	Manila Golf (Indiv.)/Corp	10.3M/11M	Sherwood B	130 000
Canlubang Golf	450 000	Manila Polo	2.2M	Tagaytay Highland Golf Club	360/750
Capitol Hills	160 000	Manila Southwoods "A"/B	450/550	Tagaytay Midlands	Pls Call
Celebrity	170 000	Mimosa Indiv/Corp	Pls call	Valley Golf	270 000
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	240/310/350	Orchard "A"/C	170,000/Pls call	Wack Wack	6.5M

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	-	1,350,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	650,000	700,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	70,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	80,000
Camp John Hay	200,000	220,000
Canlubang	450,000	550,000
Canyonwoods	100,000	150,000
Capitol Hills	Please Call	135,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	-
Celebrity Sports Club	160,000	175,000
Club Filipino	130,000	190,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	-	200,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	200,000
Forest Hills "C"	210,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	240,000	270,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,600,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,300,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	400,000	500,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	500,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	500,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	90,000	110,000
Mimosa (Individual)	90,000	140,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	275,000
Montemar (Individual)	40,000	55,000
Montemar (Corporate)	70,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	-	250,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	-	500,000
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	200,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"	-	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	80,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	130,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	170,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,300,000	1,500,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,600,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)		280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	360,000	380,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	800,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	750,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	140,000
Valley Golf	280,000	300,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	Please Call

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ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1.3 M	1.1M
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	-	600K
CAMP JOHN HAY	270K	
CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB		400K
COUNTRY CLUB TAGAYTAY		350K
EAGLE RIDGE "B"		310K
EAGLE RIDGE "C"	-	350K
FONTANA "D"	50K	
FOREST HILLS "A"		150K
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250K	
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind.)	please call	10.3M
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Corp.)	11M	please call
MANILA POLO CLUB	2.300M	
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"		520K
MIMOSA "E"		250K
MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	-	30K
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	please call	
RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "B"	110K	
ROYALE TAGAYTAY		please call
SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	150K	
SPLENDIDO	300K	
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"		1.3M
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "B"	please call	1.4M
SUMMIT POINT	please call	
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS		600K
VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		270K
WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	7.0M	please call

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Baguio Country Club	-	580,000
Camp John Hay	220,000	Pls. Call
Canyon Woods	160,000	Pls. Call
Capitol Hills	-	135,000
Calatagan Golf Club A/B**	70,000/Pls. Call	-
Celebrity Sports Club	180,000	150,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	270,000/450,000**	230,000
Eastridge B	-	80,000
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fontana B/C*/A**	70,000/140,000*/230,000**	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	220,000/230,000*/250,000**	176,000
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	10,700,000/12,000,000*	10,000,000/11,000,000*
Manila Polo	2,300,000	-
Makati Sports Club A/B*	-	210,000
Manila Yacht Club	550,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	540,000/600,000*	450,000
Metropolitan Club	100,000	90,000
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	350,000*	95,000/260,000*
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	260,000	-
Orchard Golf A/B*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Phil. Columbian	70,000	-
Puerto Azul A/B	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	-	400,000
Quezon City Sports Club A	-	180,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	185,000*/280,000**	100,000
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	Pls. Call*	-
Sherwoods A/B*/C**	90,000/Pls. Call*	70,000**
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	-	1,400,000
Subic Bay Yacht Club (Corp.)	160,000	-
Subic Golf	Pls. Call	-
Tagaytay Country Club	400,000	350,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	800,000	700,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	600,000
Valley Golf & CC	300,000	250,000
Valle Verde (Indv.)	160,000	-
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US aviation agency sets audit on safety of airports in RP

By Abigail L. Ho

FOLLOWING the unsuccessful air talks between the Philippines and the United States, the US Federal Aviation Authority is set to conduct an audit of Philippine airports to assess the extent of their adherence to international safety and security standards.

A well-placed government source disclosed that a team of FAA officials from the United States, Tokyo and Singapore would be coming to Manila on Aug. 20-21 to conduct the audit.

However, the source said the audit schedule was quite "suspicious" as it immediately followed the collapse of air talks between the country and the United States.

"We could be facing a downgrade from the FAA. From a consistent category 1 classification, we could fall to category 2. This has happened before so it's not unlikely that it will happen again," he told the INQUIRER.

Under category 1, there are no restrictions by the FAA on US carriers flying to the Philippines as all safety and security procedures are expected to be strictly in place.

Under category 2, on the other hand, the source said there would be no big changes except that US flights to the Philippines would either be frozen or limited because of security concerns.

"We may even be put under some sort of travel advisory if the FAA downgrades us. Because a downgrade at this point will mean that our airports don't have adequate security measures against terrorists and other things," he said.

For the past three years, the Air Transportation Office has ensured that the country's airports are at par with the world's best in terms of security measures.

Despite the country's track record and its strict adherence to the International Civil Aviation Organization's standards, the source said the downgrade was highly probable as this could be used to pressure the government into giving in to what the US air panel wanted amended in the existing air transport agreement.

The US air panel wanted seventh freedom, or the right to carry traffic between two foreign countries on a service with no connection to the home country, for US cargo carriers operating here.

But the Philippine air panel refused to grant this as giving seventh freedom to foreign carriers was a violation of the Constitution.

With seventh freedom, US cargo carriers could be operating here just like any other Philippine flag carrier.

"Because the US panel didn't get what they wanted from the Philippines, they could just exert enough pressure for us to give in. The threat of a downgrade could be just the form of pressure they would use on us," the source said.

He related that in 1994, the FAA downgraded the Philippines to category 2 after flag carrier Philippine Airlines chose to get aircraft from European manufacturer Airbus instead of from the American supplier Boeing.

Naia operations to be transferred to Clark airport

OPERATIONS of the existing Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila will eventually be transferred to the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) in Clark as the government considers making Clark a hub for air services in the coming years.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza explained that while the Manila airport was doing quite well now in terms of servicing existing traffic, it had no place to expand should the need for more runways surface.

The DMIA, on the other hand, was surrounded by vast tracts of land that could be used for runways and terminals.

The problem with the DMIA now, however, was that it did not have any infrastructure ready. This included passenger terminals and transportation systems from Manila to Clark.

"Clark has no terminal and no service providers. It also has no roads and no railway system that can bring people to Manila. We need to develop these first," Mendoza said.

For this, he said the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) would put in an initial P100 million to help jumpstart infrastructure development there.

The multibillion-peso Manila-Clark Rapid Railway System or Northrail is also being developed to give commuters an easier time traveling between Manila and Clark.

But as railway operations between Manila and Clark was not seen to be that viable, Mendoza said the government was considering incorporating train fares into plane fares to help generate revenues for the railway as well as to make it easier for air travelers to get to Manila from Clark.

"The Manila-Clark railway will not be that viable. Its revenues are not expected to be able to cover its expenses. That's why the monorail being proposed will be part of airport operations," he said.

Should Clark be declared a hub for air services, he said another option to make commuting from there to Manila easier was for the government to provide shuttle buses or small planes that could ferry passengers back and forth.

"We'll show airlines that Clark is a better destination because of many factors, including safety and security. We'll also try to convince general aviation to transfer their operations there. As an incentive, we will waive certain charges for the first year or two," he said.

But the development of Clark as a hub did not mean that the Naia would be closed down altogether, Mendoza said. The two airports would be working with each other "on a complementary and supplementary basis." *Abigail L. Ho*

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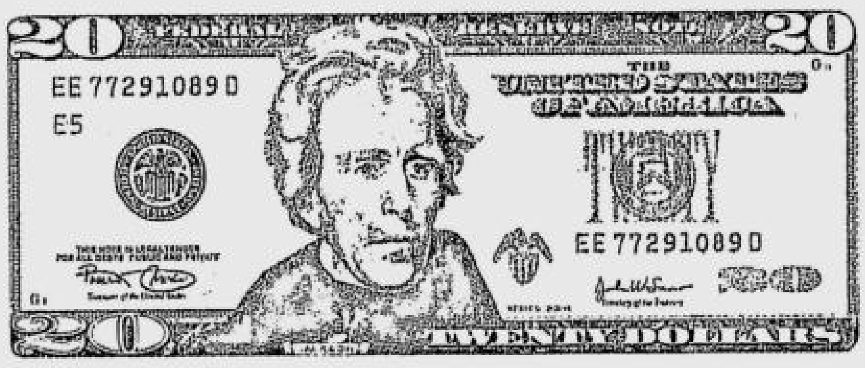


The New Color of Money
Safer. Smarter. More Secure.
Little Known Facts about the U.S. Dollar

By the end of this year, the United States Government will have introduced into circulation a newly redesigned U.S. $20 note – with subtle background colors. The new notes will be **safer**, **smarter** and **more secure**: ***safer*** because they are harder to fake and easier to examine; ***smarter*** to stay ahead of tech-savvy counterfeiters; and ***more secure*** to protect the integrity of the US currency.

As soon as the current U.S. $20 note was introduced in 1998, the U.S. Government began working on future designs. That redesign was the first in a continuing cycle of design changes planned to take place every 7 to 10 years.

About 60% of the estimated U.S.$650 billion in circulation is held outside the United States, with $2 billion estimated to be circulating in the Philippines.

But other than current peso-dollar exchange rates, what else do we know about the American currency — both the new and old designs?

The information provided below will help all dollar-saving Filipinos learn interesting facts about the history, production and circulation of U.S. currency.

Enduring Value
The U.S. government has never devalued its currency and will not do so now. Every U.S. currency note issued since 1861 is still redeemable today at full face value in the U.S. and worldwide, depending on the policies of individual financial institutions in each foreign country. The old currency designs will hold their value indefinitely, even as they are eventually replaced with the most recent Series 2004 design over time.

Comeback for Color?
The newly redesigned notes – with subtle background colors – will be introduced, beginning with U.S.$20 note, in late 2003. New designs for the $50 and $100 notes will follow, in 2004 and 2005.

The last U.S. currency with background color was the $20 Gold Certificate, Series 1905, which was tinted gold and featured a red seal and serial number.

Other elements in the newly redesigned notes include three important security features that were first introduced in the late 1990s and are easy for consumers and merchants alike to examine:

Watermark: a faint image, similar to the portrait, which is part of the paper itself and is visible from both sides when held up to the light.

Security thread: also visible from both sides when held up to the light, this vertical strip of plastic is embedded in the paper and spells out the denomination in tiny print.

Color-shifting ink: the numeral in the lower right corner on the face of the note, indicating its denomination, changes color when the note is tilted.

What is the origination of the statement "In God We Trust"?
The inscription, "In God We Trust," first appeared on U.S. coins in 1864 and first appeared on paper money in 1957. The use of this phrase on both U.S. coins and currency notes is required by law. Use of the this phrase has been challenged in U.S. courts many times over the years but has been consistently upheld by the various courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court as recently as 1977.

Who selects the designs and portraits of the notes?
Since February 1862, the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury has been responsible for the designs that appear on paper currency. Former Secretary Paul O'Neill approved the new $20 note design slated for introduction later this year. Secretary John W. Snow's signature will appear on the new notes.

Since 1866, U.S. law has prohibited portraits of any living person on currency.

Portraits and Designs on Current United States Paper Money in Circulation
- **$1 Note (Face)** - George Washington (1st U.S. President) **(Back)** - The Great Seal of the United States
- **$2 Note (Face)** - Thomas Jefferson (3rd U.S. President) **(Back)** - Signing of the Declaration of Independence
- **$5 Note (Face)** - Abraham Lincoln (16th U.S. President) **(Back)** - Lincoln Memorial
- **$10 Note (Face)** - Alexander Hamilton (1st Secretary of the Treasury) **(Back)** - U.S. Treasury Building
- **$20 Note (Face)** - Andrew Jackson (7th U.S. President) **(Back)** - White House
- **$50 Note (Face)** - Ulysses Grant (18th U.S. President) **(Back)** - U.S. Capitol
- **$100 Note (Face)** - Ben Franklin (Statesman) **(Back)** - Independence Hall, Philadelphia

Which office produces the U.S. currency?
The Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP), a division of the Department of the Treasury produces U.S. paper currency. The establishment of BEP can be traced as far back as August 29, 1862, to a single room in the basement of the main Treasury building where two men and four women separated and sealed by hand $1 and $2 United States Notes that had been printed by private bank note companies.

Even then, the design of U.S. currency incorporated fine-line engraving, intricate geometric lathwork patterns, a Treasury seal, and engraved signatures to aid in counterfeit deterrence. Since that time, the U.S. Treasury has continued to add features to thwart counterfeiting.

The BEP produces 37 million notes a day with a face value of approximately $696 million.

Dollar trivia and other facts:
- A stack of currency one mile high would contain over 14_ million notes.
- The approximate weight of a currency note, regardless of denomination is one gram.
- 95% of the notes printed each year are used to replace notes already in circulation. 45% of the notes printed are $1 notes.
- The average life of a note by denomination

$ 1 .... 22 months	$ 10................ 3 Years	$ 50 .... 9 Years
$ 5 .... 2 Years	$ 20 .... 4 Years	$100 .... 9 Years

- Have you ever wondered how many times you could fold a piece of currency before it would tear? About 4,000 double folds (first forward and then backwards) are required before a note will tear.

To learn more about the U.S. dollar visit www.moneyfactory.com

BCDA signs debt-restructuring agreement with Fil-Estate

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BASES Conversion Development Authority said it has signed a "favorable" deal with the Fil-Estate Group on the restructuring of the property developer's P1.2-billion debt to the government relating to lease rentals for the former Camp John Hay military facility.

BCDA President Rufo Colayco said the terms of the deal, which was signed Friday night at the Pacific Plaza Towers in Fort Bonifacio, was warmly accepted by the government and added that the accord would result in a viable relationship between the BCDA and Fil-Estate.

He added that the signing of a memorandum of understanding last Friday should set a precedent for the government and the private sector to work together in the settlement of problematic issues.

The debt-restructuring deal allowed Fil-Estate to pay at least 60 percent of its P1.2-billion debt—or P720 million—within a 12-month period, and settle the remaining amount over the next nine years, Colayco said in an interview.

The deal also stated that P500 million of the P720 million would be paid in cash, while the balance would be settled through payment in kind, such as assets, club shares and houses that Fil-Estate will be constructing.

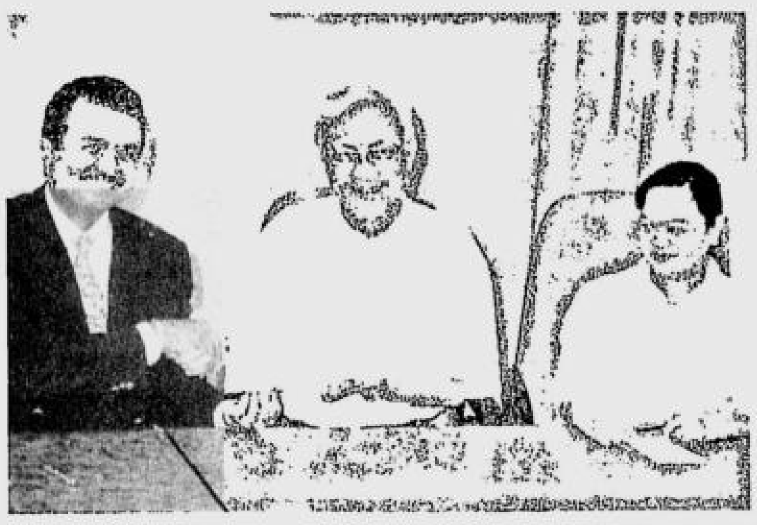
Colayco said the government was happy with the terms of the deal, which would allow it to get more than half of its unpaid lease rentals in a year's time. "This is certainly good for the government. No restructuring deal between a bank and a client with a non-performing loan could give the same favorable terms," he said.

The signing of the deal ended the more than two years of talks and disagreement over how much was the actual amount Fil-Estate owed the government and what scheme would both sides agree on to settle the debt-payment problem.

Colayco said the BCDA agreed to restructure Fil-Estate's debt because it believed the private firm indeed underwent financial setbacks due to the economic crisis that hounded the entire region since 1997. "You cannot squeeze blood out of stone," he said.

Fil-Estate had attributed its inability to pay its financial obligations to the government to the 1997 Asian financial crisis. Since then, the developer has been requesting for the restructuring of its debt with BCDA.

Fil-Estate gained the right to develop the former American recreational facility Camp John Hay after winning a bidding in 1996.


FIL-ESTATE chair and CEO Robert John Sobrepeña (left) and BCDA president Rufo Colayco sign the MOU on the restructuring deal. Witnessing the signing is BCDA vice president Aileen Anunciacion Zosa.

US links tax-free status of carrageenan to FMC Marine's problem in RP

THE COUNTRY'S bid to include its carrageenan exports to the United States in the General System of Preferences (GSP) would not materialize unless the government does something to remove the "hurdles" to the business operation here of the US-based seaweed processor FMC Corp.

The GSP is a scheme wherein the United States grants preferential treatment to about 4,100 products from 139 beneficiary countries in the form of duty-free access to its huge market.

According to US Ambassador to the Philippines Francis Ricciardone, the United States government would not approve the country's application for its carrageenan exports to be granted zero taxes until "harassment" to FMC has stopped.

"The (government) has not yet submitted their application to include carrageenan to the GSP because they know the US government would not approve it due to the problems of FMC here," Ricciardone said in an interview.

The government earlier said it would call for the inclusion of other Philippine products, including carrageenan, dried mangoes, pineapple juice and tuna, in the GSP list.

The Bureau of International Trade Relation also said earlier it would submit an application for the inclusion of carrageenan in the GSP list last June, but the application has yet to be submitted until now.

The country's carrageenan exports to the United States are currently slapped a 5-percent tax.

FMC Marine Colloid Philippines Inc. has been battered by several complaints against the alleged environmental hazards its operation posed to the country's waters.

The US-based firm, which operates in Mandaue City, has been facing various court cases for charges of water pollution through its alleged throwing of untreated wastewater.

Ricciardone said the firm did not do anything that harmed the environment, and said the charges were made by local seaweed processors who were threatened by the competition that FMC brings.

Michelle V. Remo

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Gov't legal counsel okays PDIC fund infusion in UCPB

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE OFFICE of the Government Corporate Counsel has given the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. the go-ahead to proceed with the rehabilitation of United Coconut Planters Bank, according to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

A favorable opinion of the government's chief counsel is necessary before a state agency can proceed with any sensitive activity especially those involving public funds.

"The OGCC has issued a favorable ruling that PDIC can take equity in UCPB. With this opinion, we hope the rehabilitation would soon be implemented," said the finance chief.

The same opinion was sought when the government infused P25 billion that it later converted into equity in Philippine National Bank. In the case of PNB, however, the legal opinion was given before the rehabilitation agreement was signed.

The P20-billion financial assistance of PDIC to UCPB was signed last July 7. The state-owned bank insurer said it had advanced P5 billion to UCPB in April to address the bank's liquidity problems.

Four days after the rehabilitation agreement was signed, the Sandiganbayan ruled that 72.2 percent of UCPB's stake bought with coconut levy funds belonged to the government.

The money PDIC would infuse should revive UCPB, the country's 11th biggest bank that had been suffering from financial problems as its non-performing loans ate up a capital that had not been replenished since 95 percent of the bank was sequestered in 1986.

Camacho stressed that the government would rehabilitate UCPB at any cost especially after the courts ruled that the majority of the bank was bought using public funds and therefore belonged to the government.

"If we helped UCPB even when we were not sure it was government, why would we not help it even more now," the finance chief said.

UCPB is the administrator of the coconut levy funds estimated to be worth at least P100 billion. The coconut levy was collected from farmers from 1973 to 1982 and was believed to have been used to buy UCPB, formerly First United Bank, from the family of former President Corazon Aquino.

The coconut levy funds were also believed to have been used to buy six oil mills that own 14 holding companies that, in turn, bought a 27-percent stake in San Miguel Corp.

BANGKO Sentral Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura (center) congratulates Rizalino S. Navarro (right) and Cesar E.A. Virata, chair and vice chair, respectively, of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., after the signing ceremony marking the completion of RCBC's issuance of its P5 billion in subordinated notes. The BSP governor lauded RCBC for "pioneering a peso-denominated issue specifically targeted to our nascent domestic capital market." With this step, Buenaventura said, "RCBC manifests its will to strengthen its position as one of the country's premier banking institutions."

Definition of public offering tightened

By Elena R. Torrijos

ALARMED by the increasing complaints on the sale of unregistered securities by banks and psuedo-investment firms, the Securities and Exchange Commission has tightened the definition of a public offering in order to be able to more swiftly crack down on erring groups.

In a briefing Friday, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the Commission has adopted as a policy and would include in its rules the definition of a public offering to mean a random or indiscriminate offering of securities in general to anyone who will buy, whether solicited or unsolicited.

Bautista said that the corporate watchdog has had difficulty in cracking down on investment scams because the government agency's previous policy had been that evidence of the sale to more than 19 individuals or groups had to be gathered to prove that an unauthorized public offering had been made.

"For example, with Mateo, Tibayan and Multitel, before we could find more than 19 people to come forward (and file a complaint), their schemes collapsed already," Bautista said.

Bautista also pointed out that some executives from the mother companies of banks with Philippine branches reportedly would be sent to the country, organize a meeting with prospective investors at hotels, and make a pitch for the locals invest in foreign mutual funds.

"That to us is a public offering," Bautista said.

Under the new policy of the Commission, any solicitation or presentation of securities for sale through advertising in print, broadcast or online media, presentation in any public or commercial place and distribution of flyers, brochures or any offering materials in a public or commercial place or mailing system would constitute a public offering.

Meralco seeks uniform transmission rate

By Ronnel W. Domingo

UTILITY giant Manila Electric Co. had asked the Energy Regulatory Commission to issue an order setting new transmission and distribution rates for large consumers as the current levels "do not reflect the customers' consumption levels."

In an 11-page motion dated July 1, Meralco urged the ERC to impose a uniform transmission charge on its industrial and commercial customers since the National Transmission Corp. was not charging different rates for different consumption levels.

Ivanna dela Peña, Meralco's chief of utility economics, said in an interview that the current ERC-approved rates charged large customers who get electricity at higher voltages at higher cost per kilowatt-hour.

"This is contrary to the cost of service because it is cheaper to deliver electricity at higher voltages," Dela Peña explained.

Per Meralco's classification of customers, high-consumption customers are those who consume electricity at between 230 volts and 115 kilovolts.

Meralco records show the following transmission rates for large customers: P290 per kilowatt for those who use 230 V-460 V; P294 per kW for those who use power below 13.2 kilovolts; P300 per kW for 13.2 kV-13.8 kV; P311 per kW for P34.5 kV and P326 per kW for 155 kV.

Distribution charges are P119, P112, P123, P124 and P122 per kW for the respective categories of customers.

In terms of kilowatt-hours, Meralco said such customers respectively pay P3.91, P4.96, P4.90, P5.11 and P510.

"These consumers pay more when the cost of service goes down," Dela Peña said. "That is why we hear complains from industrial customers that their bills have gone up when Meralco rates were unbundled (starting in the June billing cycle)."

The unbundling of rates separated electricity charges into different components. This also included an ERC-approved rate hike of 8.65 centavos per kWh for the utility's distribution rate.

Since the June billing cycle, Meralco had separated its three traditional charges—basic charge, currency exchange rate adjustment (Cera) and purchased power adjustment (PPA)—into nine components.

These are the charges for generation, transmission, systems loss, franchise tax, distribution, supply, metering and Cera.

In the meantime, the official said that about two-thirds of residential customers were enjoying lower monthly billings after its rates were unbundled despite consumer complaints of increased costs due to the new billing system.

Dela Peña said the monthly bills of customers who use up to 100 kilowatt-hours a month went down by between 20 percent to 47 percent.

This means savings of between P100 and P112 a month for the low-consumption households, company records showed.

She also said that, consumers using between 101 kwh and 200 kWh a month would also see a slight decrease in their bills due to the unbundling of rates.

RP-ITALY BILATERAL RELATIONS
Philippine Ambassador to Italy Philippe J. Lhuillier welcomed officers and members of the Italo-Filipino Chamber of Commerce led by Giuliano Manoli (left) and Roberto Merlo (right), vice president and president respectively, at the Philippine Embassy in Rome. The visit aimed to strengthen the alliance between the embassy and the business group.

Public sector borrowings jump 12.6% to ₱4.97T

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S consolidated public sector debt—consisting of the borrowings of the national government, state-owned banks and corporations and the central bank—reached P4.97 trillion as of September 2002, up 12.6 percent or P556 billion from P4.411 trillion in 2001.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that the total government debt was equivalent to 115.8 percent of the gross national product. Simply put, the Philippines' total output is not enough to pay for its debts.

The country's total outstanding debt more than doubled since 1996, when it stood only at P2.237 trillion.

Over the last 10 years, the consolidated public debt stock had increased by about P3 trillion or 160 percent from P1.913 trillion in 1993.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho explained that the DOF data already included the national government's outstanding debts and therefore, must not be compared against or added to the debt stock regularly released by the Bureau of Treasury.

Of the consolidated debt stock, the national government accounted for P2.625 trillion; the 14 government owned and controlled corporations, P1.249 trillion; the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, P665.6 billion; the government financial institutions, P358.4 billion, and the liquidated central bank, P68.2 billion.

By the end of 2002, according to the Treasury, the national government's outstanding debt already reached P2.81 trillion and as of April 2003, the debt stock had grown to P2.932 trillion.

The DOF's latest available data on other public sector borrowings, however, were only up to September 2002, according to the finance department.

As of September 2002, the national government's outstanding debt was equivalent to 61.2 percent of GNP from 58.8 percent in 2001 when the level of indebtedness was at P2.302 trillion.

Chinese coal supplier wins auction for ₱600-M contract

CHINESE coal supplier Shanxi Coal Import and Export Group Corp. is expected to corner a contract with the National Power Corp. worth about P600 million for the 1,200-megawatt Sual power plant's fuel requirement.

The Chinese firm bested in last Friday's auction two other bidders for the 324,000-metric ton coal contract.

Napocor bidding officials said the coal supply covered by this contract would have to be delivered between September this year and October 2004.

The officials said Shanxi offered the best terms but added that the tenders offered would still have to undergo post-qualification.

The auction was the fourth for Napocor. It has already awarded six contracts worth P3 billion after three bidding rounds, the winners of which were confirmed through post-qualification.

Napocor records showed that Shanxi offered $25.05 per metric ton of coal plus $6 per ton for freight costs.

The two other bidders for the coal contract were China National Coal Import and Export Co. (CNCIEC) and Shenhua Coal Trading Co.

CNCIEC offered $27 per metric tons plus $5.10 for freignt. Shenhua quoted $25.05 per ton plus $6 in freight, but the supply it offered had less heating value than Shanxi's.

In an interview last week, a Napocor official said the state firm was planning to hold two more rounds of bidding for coal supply contracts exclusively for Australian suppliers.

Also last week, Malacañang announced that the government had agreed with the Australian government for Napocor to buy $66 million worth of Australian coal in the next two years.

The Department of Energy had said Napocor would hold limited competitive auctions for supply contracts covering up to 975,000 metric tons of coal each year for 2003 and 2004.

This means that the state firm will hold auctions exclusively for firms that supply Australian coal.

Three contracts, one for the 600-megawatt Masinloc plant in Zambales and two for the 1,200-MW Sual plant in Pangasinan would be auctioned off each year.

Each contract involves five shipments of 65,000 metric tons of coal. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

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TRADE AGREEMENT

China widens market access for HK firms

BEIJING—Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa said on Saturday Beijing had agreed to widen access for Hong Kong firms involved in the telecom, tourism and financial services sectors under a recently signed trade deal.

The telecommunications sector was not covered under the original agreement and its inclusion now is almost certain to make waves in that highly competitive industry.

Beijing also agreed to speed up the implementation of the trade deal, but Tung did not give details or say how fast.

"Premier (Wen Jiabao) has said to me that he would agree to expand the market for Hong Kong in areas such as telecommunications, tourism and also financial services," Tung told reporters after a meeting with Chinese leaders in Beijing.

"When I get back to Hong Kong, I would be immediately putting efforts into motion to get these areas moving and maybe in a few weeks' time, I will be able to tell you all the details of what this would mean for Hong Kong, new opportunities for Hong Kong." Both Tung and Beijing view these concessions as an important confidence booster at a time when Tung's Beijing-backed administration is battling its worst political crisis in years.

Fed up with Tung's failure to revive the anaemic economy, a litany of policy blunders and the government's handling of the recent Sars epidemic, hundreds of thousands of people in Hong Kong staged a series of protests this month calling for the former shipping tycoon to resign and full democracy.

People were also angry with Tung's insistence in trying to force through an anti-subversion bill, which critics say will gut basic human rights and freedoms.

The massive protests shocked the Chinese leadership and analysts have earlier predicted that Beijing would hand over more economic favors to temper public anger.

Hong Kong and China signed the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (Cepa) on June 29 in a move billed by the government as a significant boost for the local economy, mired under a record high unemployment rate and nearly five years of deflation.

Under the plan, China will eliminate tariffs on 273 types of Hong Kong-made goods from January 1, 2004, and on all other goods made in the territory by 2006.

But Cepa's bigger benefits for Hong Kong may come in the form of easier conditions for Hong Kong-based service industries—such as lawyers, accountants and banks—to operate in mainland China, the world's fastest growing consumer market.

"You can see from very quick response from the Premier, the leadership here really cares about Hong Kong, really want to help Hong Kong in the economic restructuring," Tung added.

Reuters

UNDERVALUED CURRENCY

Chinese bank customers check the foreign exchange rates on a bank computer. A group of US senators argued that China has deliberately undervalued its currency to drive down the price of its exports, and called on the administration to take "appropriate action," and claiming China's export gains have come at the expense of US manufacturers.

AFP

China airline expects 50% cut in first half earnings

SHANGHAI—Shanghai Airlines Co. Ltd., China's sixth largest carrier by traffic volume, said on Saturday it was likely to post a loss in the first half of 2003 due to the outbreak of the deadly flu-like Sars virus.

The carrier had earlier warned it might see earnings slide more than 50 percent in the first half.

Even before the peak of the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, which depressed air travel after people chose to stay home and carriers grounded fleets, Shanghai Air had already posted a loss for the first quarter of this year.

It blamed surging jet fuel prices.

"Our company's operations were heavily affected by the Sars outbreaks," Shanghai Air conceded in a statement published in the official Shanghai Securities News. "Initial estimations show that our company would endure a loss in the first half." Shanghai Air, saying its operations were now recovering, added it would disclose interim results on Aug. 2. It did not elaborate.

Shanghai Air's yuan-denominated A shares—open only to select foreign investors—closed down 1.74 percent at 7.92 yuan on Friday, having dived 12 percent since mid-April when news of Sars spread began to swirl in local markets.

Expectations for earnings of Chinese airlines have been low.

Rival airlines such as China Eastern Airlines Corp. Ltd. and George Soros' Hainan Airlines Co. Ltd. have forecast first-half losses or steep falls in profit.

Reuters

US seeking regular energy talks with Japan

TOKYO—The United States is asking Japan to hold regular talks on energy policy, but Japanese officials are concerned that Washington will use the forum to further pressure Tokyo to give up an Iranian oil project, a Japanese newspaper reported on Saturday.

The Mainichi Shimbun said in its evening edition that Washington had told Tokyo that it wanted to discuss on a regular basis diversification of oil procurement and other issues related to energy security.

The move follows US pressure on Japan to back away from a project to develop Iran's Azadegan, one of the world's largest untapped oil fields.

A Japanese government-backed consortium missed a June 30 deadline with Iran to seal the $2-billion deal to develop Azadegan following US pressure, and subsequently lost exclusive rights to the project.

"The energy talks may be a trap to force (Japan) into giving up the development of Azadegan," the Mainichi quoted a Japanese official as saying.

Resource-poor Japan has been stuck between the need to secure a long-term oil supply and its security alliance with Washington, which is suspicious of Tehran's nuclear programme.

Japanese officials have said the consortium was unlikely to finalize the contract unless concerns over Tehran's nuclear programme were addressed, but the firms have continued negotiations with Iran.

he consortium consists of trading house Tomen Corp. and the government-backed Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. (Japex) and Inpex Corp.

Faced with the threat of neighboring North Korea's nuclear weapons program, Japan threw its support behind the US-led war in Iraq despite opposition from the vast majority of the Japanese public.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has been a staunch ally of US President George W. Bush, saying that only the United States will provide security for Japan should it come under attack.

Reuters

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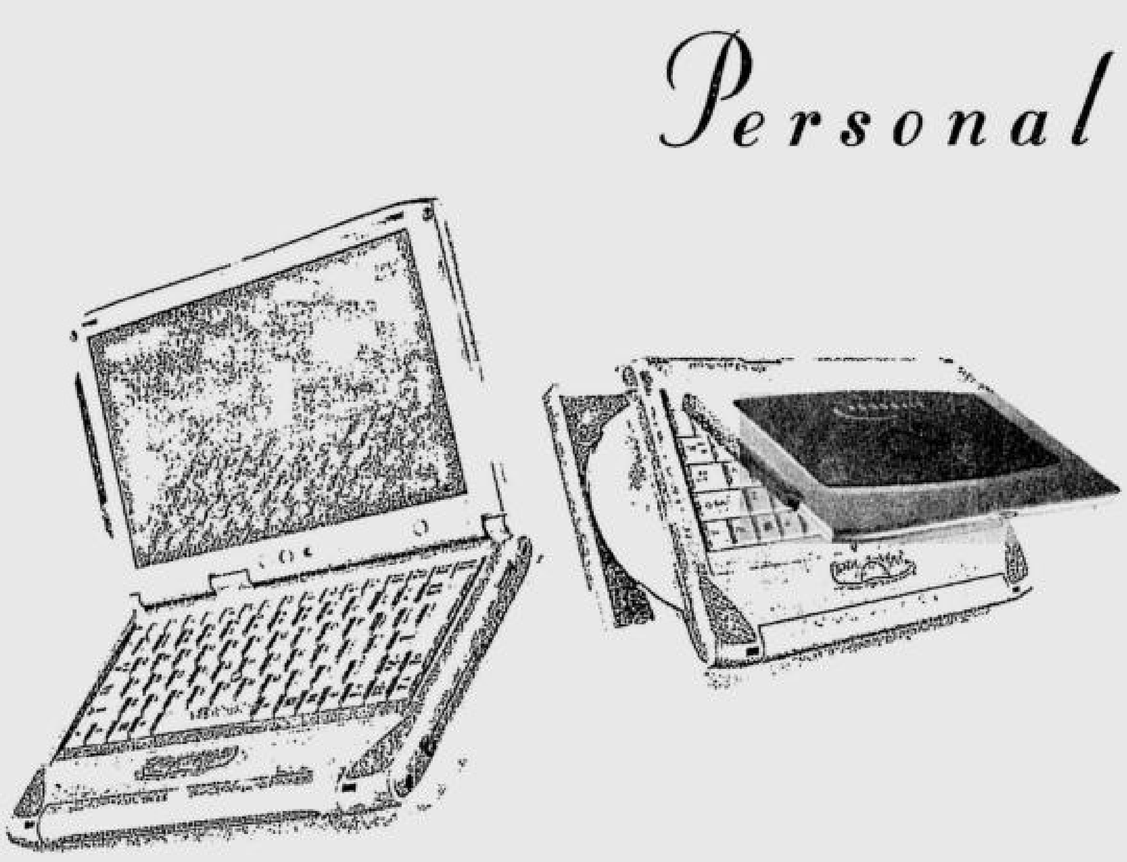

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‘MANAGEABLE’ BUDGET DEFICIT

US economic chief predicts 4 % growth in 2004

WASHINGTON—Treasury Secretary John Snow said Friday he expected US economic growth to speed up to at least 4 percent next year, according to a statement released here.

Snow, at the conclusion of a trip to Britain and Germany, also said he believed the US budget deficit—forecast to hit a record $455 billion in 2003—was "manageable."

"This year I expect growth to exceed three percent in the third and fourth quarters of this year, and four percent next year," the treasury secretary said.

The expectations were echoed by private economists' forecasts, he said in the statement, which was issued in Frankfurt.

Snow also played down the consequences of a revised White House forecast Tuesday that the federal budget deficit would explode to a record $455 billion in 2003.

President George W. Bush's administration said the deficit—50 percent bigger than that projected just five months ago—had been exacerbated by a weak economy, the Iraq war and tax cuts.

The shortfall, soaring from a deficit of $159 billion last year, would grow again to $475 billion in fiscal 2004, starting October 1, the White House's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) said.

"The fiscal deficit in the United States will be larger this year," Snow conceded.

"While this is to be expected, no one is happy about increased deficits. But our deficit level is manageable and I expect a growing economy combined with spending restraint will put US fiscal deficits on a declining path." Snow prodded major US economic partners to boost economic growth.

"The United States is returning to growth, but the world economy needs multiple engines of growth," he said.

"I am encouraged that important developments underway in Europe can help this market return to growth as well. Restoring economic growth requires more than sound macroeconomic policy, it also requires appropriate structural reforms that promote strong domestic demand led-growth."

Snow said he applauded German efforts to support growth and push through structural reforms.

In Britain, he said, Prime Minister Tony Blair and his team were implementing "sound policies" and making reforms to maintain competitiveness and growth.

"While I did not visit France on this trip, I should also note that I am pleased with developments in that country as well," Snow said, citing tax and pension reform plans. *AFP*

A GERMAN trader gestures during a session at the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. German Finance Minister Hans Eichel said he saw "no real sign of an upturn" in the German economy just yet, but he insisted that some of the latest economic data were indeed favorable. AFP

Wall St. looking for direction

NEW YORK—After a flood of corporate earnings reports and a guardedly optimistic outlook from Fed chairman Alan Greenspan, Wall Street is no longer sure which way is up.

The Dow Jones industrials gained 0.75 percent in the week to Friday to end at 9,188.15 but the tech-heavy Nasdaq composite fell 1.47 percent to 1,708.50.

The broad-market Standard and Poor's 500 index fell 0.48 percent to 993.32.

The market has been on a four-month uptrend, but traders are unsure whether the momentum can be sustained without a strong acceleration in economic growth.

Greenspan, who appeared before Congress Tuesday and Wednesday, offered encouragement to equity markets by signaling the Fed was prepared to keep rates low in supporting economic growth.

But his comments did little for stocks, while punishing bonds.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury bond soared to 3.969 percent from 3.640 percent a week earlier and that on the 30-year bond to 4.911 percent fro 4.684 percent. A rise in yields reflects a drop in bond prices.

"While he (Greenspan) stated emphatically that the central bank would maintain a low interest rate environment 'as long as needed' to ensure economic recovery, he noted that there was little, if any, need for the Fed to use non-conventional tools, such as buying long Treasury bonds, to offset deflationary trends that were not present," said Doug McAllister at Prudential Securities.

The sharp spike in bond yields meanwhile sent ripples across Wall Street, amid concerns that rising interest rates could crimp the fragile US economic recovery.

"That's the uncertainty that is vexing investors," said Steven Narker at Merrill Lynch.

"Our sense is that they are waiting to see if interest rates settle into a comfort zone, one that isn't high enough to smother an economic upturn and isn't low enough to signal that the economy is in danger of backsliding into stagnation, another recession, or a pernicious Japanese-style deflation."

The spate of earnings reports have been generally good, although companies have expressed caution over whether the trend can be sustained.

The market was especially troubled by the weak forecast from tech bellwethers IBM and Nokia, but took some comfort from a strong report later in the week from Microsoft.

Among active shares in the past week, Caterpillar tallied a 14.34 percent gain to 65.61 on a strong quarterly report for the heavy equipment maker.

Retail giant Sears jumped 11.92 percent to 38.60 after news of a deal to sell its credit card operations offset a weak earnings report.

Chip giant Intel advanced 5.67 percent to 24.66 after its earnings report buoyed investors. *AFP*

World steel talks fail to strike deal

PARIS—The world's top steel producing nations failed on Friday to agree on how to cut state subsidies but some hailed signs of progress and held out the prospect of a long-awaited deal next year.

There had been hopes for an accord on cutting subsidies ahead of the next round of World Trade Organization (WTO) talks in Cancun, Mexico, but delegates said a sticking point remained how some exemptions would be permitted to developing nations.

"We need some time to bring all the developing countries on board," said Herwig Schoegl, deputy Secretary General of the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which hosted the three days of talks.

"I still hope we can conclude the substance of our work in early 2004. But this is only an expectation," he said, warning other obstacles might yet emerge. He said further high-level talks were scheduled for early next year at the latest.

The steel sector is rife with international disputes over the large amount of state aid on offer to national industries. The United States blamed foreign support for steel in part for its move last year to impose temporary tariffs on imports.

The OECD talks have won agreement by the some 40 countries taking part for a ban on most subsidies, aside from those to fund the cost of closing old producing plant.

Yet differences remain over which other exemptions should be allowed and to what extent developing countries can continue to help their industries. *Reuters*

Calpers, CalSTRS sue AOL Time Warner

SAN FRANCISCO—Two of the largest US pension funds filed suit against AOL Time Warner Inc on Friday, alleging the media giant inflated its stock price by overstating its revenues.

Calpers, the California Public Employees' Retirement System, which is the largest pension fund in the country, filed a $250-million lawsuit, while a spokeswoman for CalSTRS, the California State Teachers' Retirement System, and the third largest US pension fund, said it sued to recover "about $200 million."

A representative for AOL Time Warner could not be immediately reached for comment.

Further details of the CalSTRS lawsuit were not immediately available, however Calpers said that its lawsuit, filed in Superior Court in Sacramento County, related to alleged accounting irregularities at AOL before and after its 2001 merger with Time Warner.

The lawsuits come on top of at least 30 shareholder lawsuits that have been filed against the media and Internet conglomerate.

Calpers said its lawsuit alleges that advertising revenue at the company's AOL Internet division was overstated by at least $1.7 billion, through the use of sham transactions and improper accounting practices, both before and after it merged with Time Warner.

AOL and Time Warner agreed to merge in January 2001 in a deal valued at $106.2 billion. However, amid growing scrutiny into its accounting practices, the company said last year that it would restate results for the prior two years and reduce revenue by some $190 million.

Calpers said it brought its lawsuit against AOL Time Warner, America Online Inc. and current and former executives including Stephen Case, Gerald Levin, Robert Pittman and David Colburn. The suit also names Salomon Smith Barney Inc., Morgan Stanley and Co. and Ernest and Young Llp as agents involved in the merger.

AOL Time Warner posted a 2002 loss of nearly $100 billion—the largest annual loss in US corporate history. *Reuters*

Ford Co. plans 2,000 job cuts

DEARBORN, Michigan—Ford Motor Co. said Friday it plans to cut 10 percent of costs related to its salaried automotive work force by the end of the year. A Ford source said up to 2,000 white-collar jobs could be eliminated.

The cost-cutting effort comes as the world's No. 2 automaker tries to keep its restructuring plan, launched a year and a half ago, on track. Ford said earlier this week it slashed expenses by $1.3 billion in the second quarter; its goal is to reduce costs by $2.5 billion by the end of 2003.

Ford officials declined to give a specific number of jobs targeted in the plan announced Friday, but a company source speaking on condition of anonymity said the number of jobs cut could reach 2,000.

Chief operating officer Nick Scheele alerted Ford workers worldwide of the new cost-cutting plan in an e-mail Friday morning.

"Despite this excellent work, we still face uncertain economies around the globe and a fiercely competitive marketplace," Scheele said in his e-mail. "As a result, it's imperative that we continue looking at all of our costs globally to achieve even higher levels of efficiency and cost competitiveness."

Scheele said some of the 10 percent savings will be achieved through attrition, hiring freezes, elimination of overtime and a reduction in agency and supplemental workers.

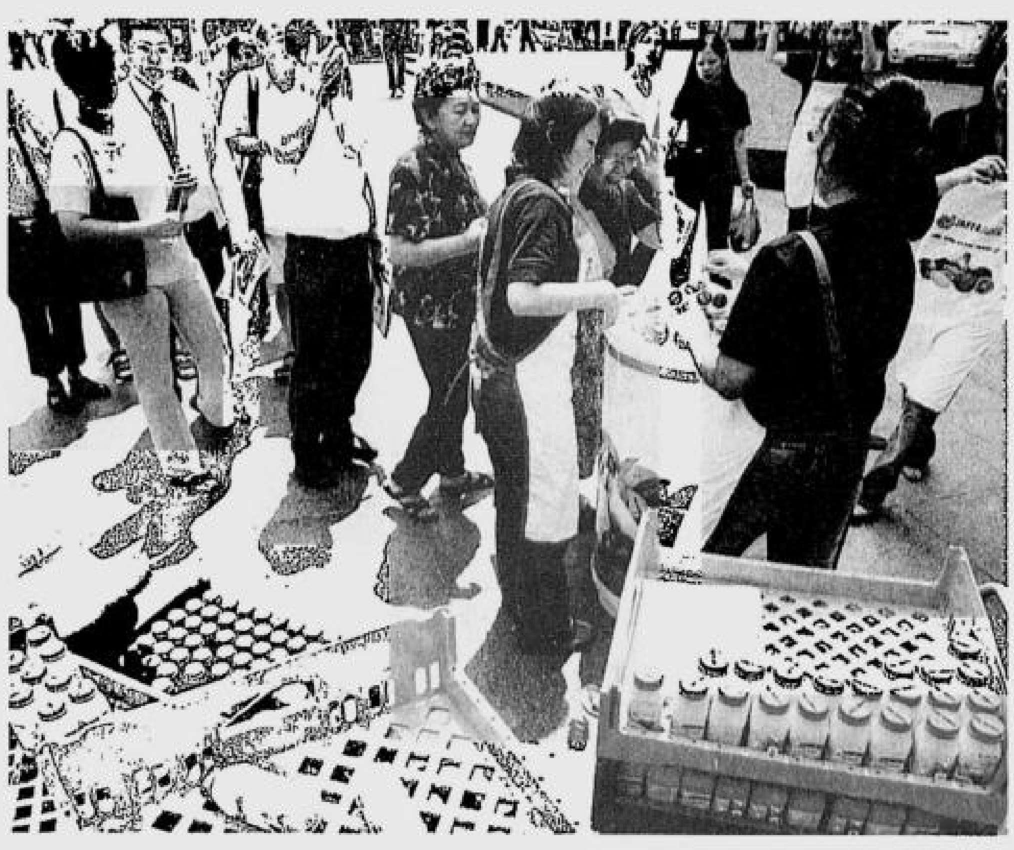
"However, where these actions cannot fully meet the targets, we will have to reduce our salaried personnel structure to address the balance," Scheele said.

Ford has about 79,000 salaried automotive workers worldwide.

Ford officials said in April they were intensifying efforts to slash the company's $30-billion budget for costs not directly related to vehicles by as much as 20 percent over the next two years. The company said the effort is part of a goal to improve profits by $9 billion by mid-decade.

Earlier this week, Ford said it earned $417 million in the second quarter, a 27 percent decline from a year ago. The automaker said it expects a loss of 15 cents in the July-September period, reflecting lower production because of high inventories.

Ford posted a profit of $896 million in the first quarter. It's trying to rebound from $6.4 billion in losses the past two years. *AP*



PEOPLE queue to get a free bottle of fruit juice in Raffles Place. Singapore's non-oil domestic exports posted their best showing in three months with a growth of almost 20 percent in June, boosting hopes of a recovery. AFP

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People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

NFA intensifies rice distribution

THE NATIONAL Food Authority has intensified the distribution of rice through its accredited retailers nationwide in a bid to assure the continuous availability of the staple at this time of the lean months.

NFA Administrator Arthur C. Yap cited that the agency sells an average of 5,025 metric tons (MT) of rice daily nationwide. This is through its rolling stores, Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke and other accredited outlets scattered all over the archipelago.

Since the start of this month, NFA has distributed a total of 32,891 MT of rice, indicating a 74-percent increase over last month's sales. For the year, the agency has already realized accumulated sales of 605,339 MT or 29 percent higher than the volume sold last year.

Yap stressed NFA rice is sold at P16 per kilo by its accredited outlets.

Among the regions, Metro Manila tops the list of areas where rice trading is heavy at a daily rate of 1,214 MT. Cebu and Pampanga follow at 309 MT and 210 MT, respectively.

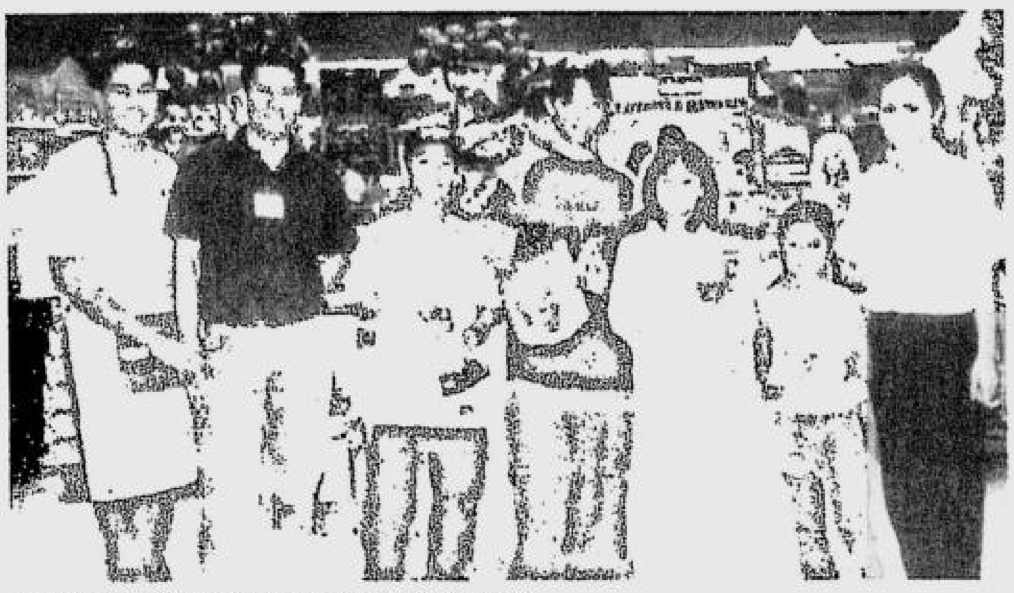
Although very slight increases in the prices of commercial stocks have been observed, Yap said this is normal during the period from July to September. "This is why we intensify our rice distribution operations to avert any effect on the rice prices."

Yap cited that average retail price of regular-milled rice (RMR) is placed at P18.33, while well-milled rice (WMR) is at P20.55 per kg. Wholesale price has been monitored at P17.13 for RMR and P18.83 per kg for WMR. The farm price for palay is reported at P10 per kilo from last month's P9.66 per kilo.

Presently, the NFA operates 209 accredited rolling stores (RS) nationwide. Complementing these are 1,319 rolling stores run by private operators and local government units. For the last week of June, the rolling stores had served some 503,531 customers with rice sales of 80,834 bags of 50 kg valued at P60.6 million, Yap added.

The country's rice stock inventory is placed at 2.1 million MT. This is sufficient to last for 78 days at the average daily rice requirement of 26,300 MT. Current rice reserves is reported to be 16 percent bigger than last year's level at the same period.

Of the industry total, NFA stocks account for 33 percent at 671,200 MT. Commercial inventory is placed at 541,600 MT while household stocks account for 844,200 MT, the NFA reported.



CRUSH GEAR CONCLUDES TOURNEY

The Crush Gear Tournament of Bankee Trading at the Toy Kingdom of SM Southmall, junior division, ended March 31. The winners were Bies Besta (1st place), Francis Ricardo (2nd), Rodney Remoto (3rd), and Christina Aragon (4th). With the winners is Joseph de Leon of Bankee Trading. For more details, call the Bankee product hotline at 373-9600 or e-mail marketing@bankee.com.ph.

Air pollution culprit of lung deterioration

ACCORDING to a survey conducted by Political & Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd., the Philippines has the worst air quality among 12 Asian countries. The survey was conducted among expatriates living in Asia in 2001. With 10 being the worst and 0 as the best score, the Philippines ranked top with the worst air quality at 8.60, followed by Hong Kong with 8.47, China with 8.38 and India at 8.13.

This piece of news is cause for alarm for Filipinos because the poor air quality in the country has devastating implications on the health of people. A talk given by Dr. Alexander Tuazon, medical affairs director of United Laboratories Inc., during the recently concluded Philippine Pediatrics Society Convention, provided evidence of the adverse effects of pollution on children's health.

The kind of pollutants found in the air will determine the extent of the harm done to the people who inhale them. Tuazon explains, "There are two kinds of pollutants, the inhalable and respirable pollutants. These are differentiated by the diameter of the particles," says Tuazon. Inhalable pollutants do not travel far into the lungs and its particles stay on the ground for a few hours. Some examples of these pollutants include dust, ocean spray, and construction debris. Respirable pollutants stay in the air for much longer, examples of this kind of pollutant include cigarette smoke and smoke from burning.

There are some sectors of society that are more sensitive to pollution. The elderly, children and those people with pre-existing lung and heart disease are especially vulnerable to pollution.

Tuazon's studies prove that there is a strong correlation between pollution and pulmonary illnesses. Observing a group of children exposed to inhalable pollutants, there were more incidents of ER visits and hospitalization caused by asthma and respiratory conditions. Because of these disruptions, children have to absent themselves from school, lagging behind their peers. But more than anything, it is the child's weakness and functional limitations that bother them the most. They are unable to enjoy a healthy and carefree childhood that will help them realize their full potentials. The extreme result of respiratory and cardiac attacks is death.

Unilab, makers of Neozep, funded the educational grant for the lunch symposium on the "Environmental Perils to the Young". Available products in the market like Neozep Forte Tablet for Adults and Neozep Syrup for Kids are formulated to effectively treat not only the symptoms of the common cold such as watery eyes, clogged nose, body aches, fever, and flu, but also signs of allergic reactions like sneezing and runny nose.

HEALTHY KIDS HAVE MORE FUN

Children enjoy the last few days of summer at Tom's World-SM Southmall where Enervon-C Plus and mall partners cooked up an exciting promo privilege. Proofs of purchase of Enervon-C Plus products purchased within May 21 to July 31 are entitled to free tokens and coupons. With every purchase of Enervon-C Plus, kids are provided with triple immunity protection (A, B-complex and C) and increased resistance to common seasonal viruses and ailments. The privilege offer is also available at Tom's World Arcade-SM Southmall and Fairview, Pixie Forest and X-Site-Festival Mall, and Storyland-SM Southmall, Megamall and Fairview.

BIOMEDIS, POGS LAUNCH WORKSHOP

As their way of helping uplift the health status of the Filipina, pH care feminine wash, Biomedis and the Philippine Obstetrics and Gunecological Society (POGS) recently launched the project 'Caring for the Filipina: The OB-GYN as Friend and Advocate.' The project aims to give proper training to OB-GYNs in providing better health care services to women. This is in line with the advocacy campaign of Unilab and Biomedis on compassionate medicine. Shown is Dr. Lyra Chua (left), 2003 POGS president and Dr. Eugene F. Ramos, VP-general manager of Biomedis Inc.

'BIDA NA RIN SI MOMMY'

Some of today's gifted and flourishing young stars were discovered in 'Eat Bulaga'-thanks to the ever-popular 'Little Miss Philippines', the noontime contest that gave them their first taste of showbiz life. After almost 20 years of producing TV's next little darlings, 'Eat Bulaga's' spotlight now also shines on the contestants' amusing 'stage' mothers in Neozep's 'Idol Ko si Mommy' portion. Mothers of 'Little Miss' contestants now have the chance to stand out with their personality, stage presence, and mother and daughter coordination. Daily winners will receive P5,000 while the 'Idol Ko si Mommy' champion will get P25,000 in cash. Die-hard fans and televiewers can also win thousands in cash and prizes by joining Neozep Syrup for Kids' 'Ma-Suwerte Home-partner' portion, open to all mothers nationwide ages 18 to 45. Weekly winners will receive P20,000 and P100,000 will be given to the lucky grand finals winner.

Mitsubishi's new Laguna outlet breaks ground

AMCAR Automotive Corp., the newest addition to the Mitsubishi Motors Philippines list of franchised dealers, held its groundbreaking ceremonies July 14 at the Greenfield Auto Mall, Greenfield City, Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay Road, Barangay Don Jose, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Amcar president and CEO Loy S. Tayao, (formerly vice president for parts and service operations of Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp.) along with Amcar's directors lawyers Marlo Carandang and Divina Carandang, and Robert Tan led the ground breaking ceremonies. Attending the groundbreaking ceremonies were Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. top executives headed by president and CEO Teruhiko Shibata and executive committee members Yoshiaki Ichimura, Susumo Kifune, Mel Dizon and Orlando Alvarez Jr.

Construction of the Amcar Automotive Corp. building is expected to be completed by mid-January 2004. When completed, it will bring the total dealership outlet count of Mitsubishi Motors Philippines to 41, the largest network among all vehicle assemblers and distributors.

Amcar Automotive Corp. facilities will feature a showroom displaying the latest models of Mitsubishi vehicles, a parts and service center that features a bay layout design that will be first of its kind among Mitsubishi Service Centers. The exceptional layout not only maximizes the total number of service bays, it offers several quick-service bays plus carwash, which are readily accessible from the road.

Amcar will be the anchor locator in Greenfield Automall, envisioned to be the largest auto mall in the Philippines featuring car dealerships, a mega gas station, and a fully integrated auto center of commercial establishments for auto parts and accessories. Greenfield Automall is located in Greenfield City, envisaged to be the future Laguna Central Business District.

Soon people from the San Pedro-Sta. Cruz Laguna corridor (the growth centers of San Pedro, Binan, Sta. Rosa, Cabuyao, Calamba, Los Banos and Sta. Cruz), plus the progressive towns of Bay, Victoria, Pila, and Pagsanjan, will experience Amcar Automotive Corp. brand quality service. Amcar is dedicated to building and maintaining superior customer delight and loyalty by delivering customer value beyond quality.

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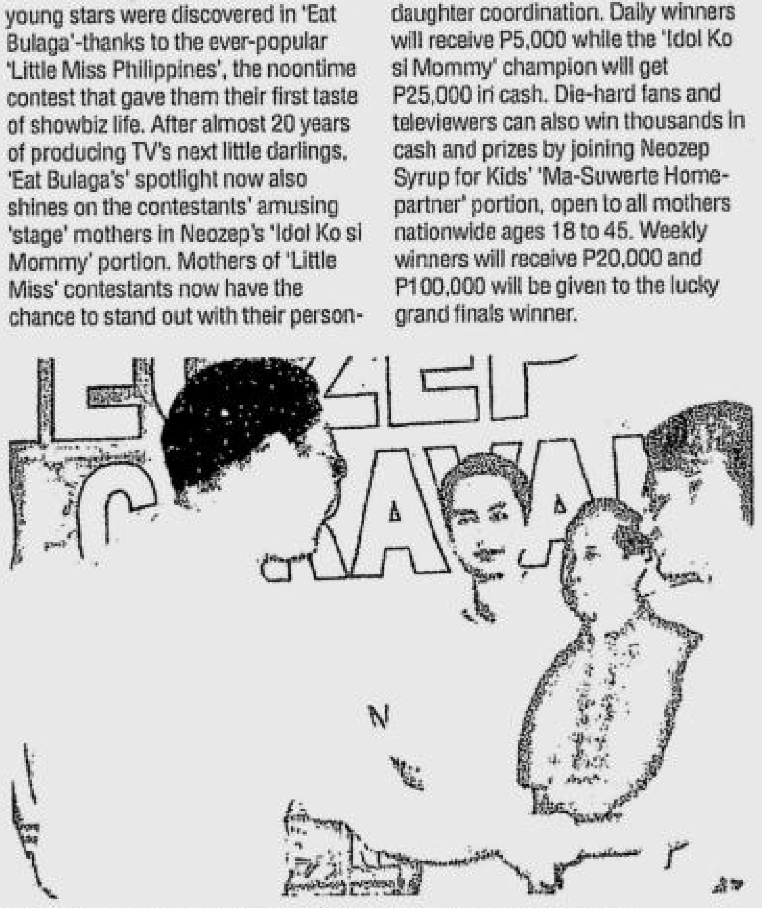
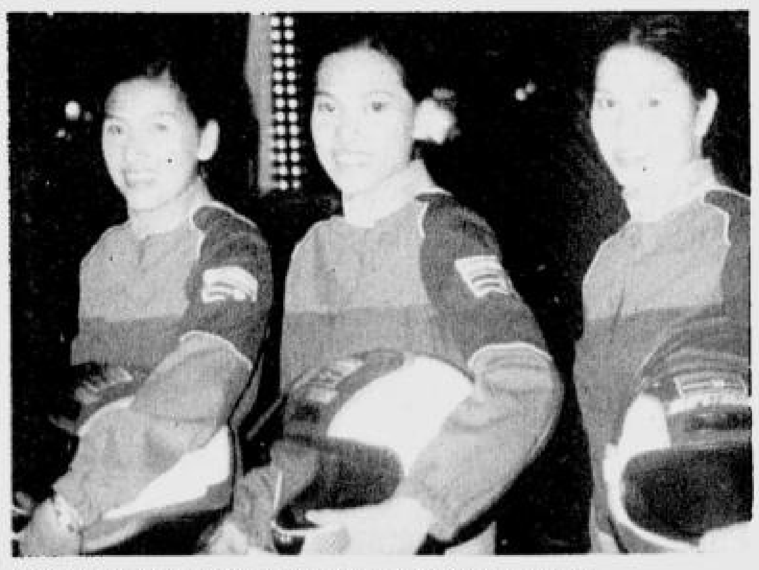
ACSAT WINS IT CONTEST

The Asian College of Science and Technology (Acsat), an industry pioneer in IT education, won top honors in the recently concluded SGE Tech software competition. Representing Acsat in the nationwide IT contest was Jose Rallang, who bagged 3rd place overall for his computerized restaurant order taking and inventory convenience software. Rallang bested 25 other entries from different IT schools around the country. Shown with Rallang (left) is engineer Emmanuel Sia, Acsat-SVP.



CAVITE MAKES WAY FOR NEOZEP CARAVAN

The heat of the mid-morning sun didn't stop hundreds of curious Cavitenos from visiting the Neozep Cold Caravan when it recently made a stopover in the province of Emilio Aguinaldo. The fun traveling troupe came with lively storytellers, puppets, and friendly doctors who regaled everyone with an entertaining program aimed to educate parents, kids and health workers on the prevention and management of colds. Lending support to this project were Cavite Governor Juanito R. Remulla and son Rep. Gilbert C. Remulla (4th from left and right, respectively) who gave the Neozep group a warm welcome when it arrived in the town of Imus. Also shown are Rodel Magsalin, Unilab consumer health professional marketing assistant manager and GF Gaviola, product manager for Neozep.



MILD SEVEN SLIPSTREAM IN QC, MAKATI

Recently, 18 of the most popular nightspots in Metro Manila were home to the popular Mild Seven Slipstream Bar Tour. The Mild Seven Pit Babes, clad in racing outfits complete with boots and helmets, did their rounds of the most popular nightspots in the Katipunan and Libis areas, as well as in Makati's Glorietta and Greenbelt malls. Each visit to a bar was highlighted with Mild Seven premiums and hundreds of free packs of Mild Seven Original and Mild Seven Lights. The Mild Seven Pit Babes also distributed fliers explaining how to join the Mild Seven Slipstream Raffle, which would send 8 loyal Mild Seven patrons to the 2004 Malaysian Grand Prix.

Clips

Mensa's 2nd test session

MENSA Philippines-the local chapter of the international high-IQ society Mensa-is holding the 2nd testing session at Oakwood Premier on July 26, as a result of the recently well-attended testing session at the same venue in the previous month. Of the 91 persons who took the qualifying test June 21, 29 persons passed. This 2nd test session starts from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Private Room, Oakwood Premier Ayala Center, 6th Floor, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. Exam takers may register and start the test anytime between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. They need only to bring a valid ID and the test fee of P400. Undergraduate students with valid student IDs may avail themselves of a discounted rate of P150. Mensa International Ltd. has over 100,000 members worldwide. Interested parties can call Patrick Ocampo at 524-4611 loc. 450.

Bazaar to benefit street children

MANILA'S premier events place, Le Pavilion, together with the Walkway Outreach Foundation, has launched a series of monthly weekend bazaars for the benefit of street children. The bazaar features a variety of booths selling NGO-made products such as food, clothes, bags, furniture and handicrafts. For an entrance fee of P30, visitors to the bazaar may avail themselves of up to 40 percent discount on selected items and a chance to win special giveaways and gift certificates during raffles held every half hour. Upcoming monthly weekend bazaar schedules will be on Aug. 2 and 3 and 23 and 24, Sept. 13 and 14 and 27 and 28, Oct. 4 and 5 and 18 and 19, Nov. 14 to 16 and 28 to 30, and ends on Dec. 6 and 7. Le Pavilion is located inside Metropolitan Park along Roxas Boulevard corner Edsa.

RCML inducts officers, BOD

DIZON

THE Rotary Club of Makati Legaspi will hold its induction of officers and board of directors on July 21, 6:30 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Elected president for Rotary Year 2003 to 2004 is Imelda Dizon, finance director of Energizer Philippines Inc. It was Patty Chiong, SVP for admin marketing and sales of Air Philippines Inc., who introduced Dizon to RCML five years ago. Dizon replaces lawyer Rodd Poltan. The other officers elected to serve for RY 2003 to 2004 are Ramon Sanchez, president nominee and VP; Roman Valles Jr., secretary; and Marco Gabriel Ongpin, treasurer. This year's theme is "Lend a Hand."

Umed bioethics confab

IN PURSUIT of excellence in providing quality medical education and development to clinical practitioners, Umed, Unilab's learning resource outfit, has red-lettered July 26 and 27 for a bioethics conference in Pulmonology. Slaetd at the Eugenio Lopez Center in Antipolo City, the event will address current bioethics issues relevant to the practice of pulmonary medicine. Concise lectures by medical luminaries will be followed by interactive small-group case discussions. The first day will start promptly with registration of delegates at 7:30 a.m. and end up with dinner and fellowship at 7 p.m.

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Please send your resumé before **July 31, 2003** to:

Total Corporate Network Inc.
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Exchange Road, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City
Attention: **Ms. Michelle Urgena**

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nos.: 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc. 6592
website: www.afp.mil.ph
e-mail: cosb.j9@afp.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Supply and Delivery of Very High Frequency/Frequency Modulation (VHF/FM) Radio Transceiver, Handheld Configuration**, with an approved budget of **Three Hundred Ninety One Million, Seven Hundred Forty Seven Thousand and Two Hundred Pesos (Php 391,747,200.00)** chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2000 and CY 2002 funds.

Only bids from entities who are manufacturers of said equipment and who have or will establish an in-country manufacturing capability for this type of radio shall be entertained.

Bid documents will only be available for issuance starting **July 14, 2003** until **July 31, 2003** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Thirty Nine Thousand Pesos (Php 39,000.00)**, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund. Pre-registration documents may only be submitted starting on the day of first publication until the day before the pre-bid conference.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **July 31, 2003 at 09:00 a.m.** (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than three (3) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility requirements and the bid envelopes is on **August 21, 2003 at 08:30 a.m.** (local time) and followed by the Opening of Bids at **09:00 a.m.** at the Silid Panday Pira.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO G CAROLINA**
Lieutenant General AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - July 15 & 21, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nos.: 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc. 6592
website: www.afp.mil.ph
e-mail: cosb.j9@afp.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid in the 2-Stage bid process for the **Upgrade of Philippine Marine Corp's V-150 Light Armor Systems**, with an approved budget of **One Hundred Seventy Million, Eight Hundred and Eighty Thousand Pesos (Php 170,880,000.00)** chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2000 and CY 2002 funds.

Only bids from entities which make, develop, fabricate, assemble, build or otherwise produce the V-150 and who have or will establish an in-country servicing capability for this type of armored vehicle shall be entertained.

1st stage bid documents will be available for issuance starting **July 14, 2003** until **August 1, 2003** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Seventeen Thousand Pesos (Php 17,000.00)**, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the 1st stage bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **August 1, 2003** at 09:00 a.m. (local time) at the Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than three (3) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The Bidder shall be allowed to inspect the V-150 and facilities upon purchase of the 1st stage bid documents until the deadline of submission of the 1st stage envelopes.

The deadline for submission of the 1st stage envelopes is on **August 28, 2003** at 08:30 a.m. (local time) to be followed by the opening of the 1st stage envelopes at 09:00 a.m. at the Silid Panday Pira. Only those bidders found to be eligible shall be allowed to participate in the 2nd stage bidding activities.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO G CAROLINA**
Lieutenant General AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - July 14 & 21, 2003)

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"Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am,
My servant also will be." John 12:26

ATTY. FAUSTO S. ARCE

Peacefully joined his Creator
on 19 July 2003 at the age of 88.

His loving wife MILA; children CELY, LEVY & FE, EDEN & NOLI, WOW & PAZ, TONY, GARD & MARIVIC, RESTY & THESS, HOMER & DIDANG, LEE, KRISCHELO, AMPARO, LORNA & DANNY, CRIS & SHEILA, JR. TABA & INING, FRANK & ROSIE; grandchildren, great grandchildren, in-laws, relatives, colleagues, and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPELS, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, 26 July 2003, at MANILA MEMORIAL PARK, Sta. Rita, Bulacan.

EUFRACIA "Fracia" REYES ROQUE

Of Limay, Bataan

Peacefully joined her Creator
on 19 July 2003 at the age of 56.

Her loving husband **VICE GOVERNOR ROGELIO G. ROQUE**; children **DEE JAY, MICHAEL PHILIP, MA. MARGARITA & JOSE GABRIELLE**; grandson **DIEGO JOSE**; mother-in-law **GENEROSA ROQUE**; brothers **FELICITO, TURIANO, CESAR, MANUEL**; sisters **TERESITA, ROSITA, SALOME**; in-laws, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request for your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence, National Road, Limay, Bataan.

Interment will be on Wednesday, July 23, 2003 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at St. Francis Church, Limay, Bataan.

OUR DEARLY BELOVED

Msgr. ISIDRO L. JOSE

1917-2003

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 19th of July, 2003 at the age of 86.

His loving brothers, sisters-in-law **Bienvenido & Gregoria Jose, Arsenio & Remedios Jose** & sister **Obdulia L. Jose** and nieces, nephews and grandchildren request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

His remains will be transferred to St. Andrew Cathedral on July 22, 2003 at 1:00 PM.

Interment will be at the Parañaque Catholic Cemetery on July 23, 2003, after the 3:00 PM Mass to be held at the St. Andrew Cathedral, Parañaque City.

**I am
the way,
the truth
and the
life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.**
John 14:6

**IN LOVING MEMORY
on the 2nd Death Anniversary of**

ATTY. DOMINADOR C. SOBREVIÑAS

of Dinalupihan, Bataan and Jolo, Sulu
March 23, 1912 – July 21, 2001

Beloved husband of the late **LUZ P. VELEZ**,
who passed away on October 24, 1991

His children, **Alfredo (†) & Lourdes, Cita & James, Francis & Sylvia, Renato & Lucy, Aida & Milan, Luz Marie & Honorato, & Josie**; brothers **Carlos, Tomas & Bishop Manuel, D.D.**; sister, **Sr. Jesus, O.S.A.**; in-laws, grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

**"For God so loved the world, that He gave
His only begotten Son, that whoever
believes in Him shall not perish
but have everlasting life."**

John 3:16

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PNOC Energy Companies Bldg., Merritt Road,
Fort Bonifacio, 1201 Makati City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO Tel. No. 893-6001 / 1320

PNOC
The Energy Company

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC – Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

**TWO (2) YEARS CONTRACT FOR CATERPILLAR ENGINES RECONDITIONING AND REMANUFACTURING
EDC03-084**

The Approved Budget is P11,653,300.00 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 2 years.

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o R.A. Sison) starting **July 17, 2003** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos: Five Hundred (P500.00).**

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **July 30, 2003, 2:30 p.m.** at the CAC Conference Room, Bldg. V at the above address. Site inspection will follow thereafter.

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at the above address **not later than 2:00 p.m. of August 19, 2003** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to the PNOC-EDC.

BAC Chairman

(PDI – July 21, 2003)

ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar St., Zamboanga City
Telephone No. 991-1556, 991-1557

INVITATION TO BID

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT (ZCWD) is inviting interested and licensed suppliers of CI Pipes & Fittings, water meters, HDPE Pipes and Brass Fittings for water supply to submit bids for the following:

PR/JO No.	DESCRIPTION
6778	Water Meter & Inserts for Stock at the Property Section
6780	HDPE Pipes, C.I. Mech. End Caps, C.I. Tee M/F, Brass Angle Meter Valve for Stock Replenishment use at the Property Section
6826	CI Saddle Clamp, Tee, Flexible Coupling, & Gate Valve, CLAC Steel Pipe, Angle Valve, PE Tubing & Brass Double Adaptor for 3rd Qtr., 2003 use by the CMD, carried in Stock

Interested suppliers may obtain Bid Forms and Detailed Specifications at the BAC Secretariat, 2F, ZCWD Bldg., Pilar St., Zamboanga City after payment of a minimal non-refundable fee of P500.00 for PR nos. 6780, 6826 and P250.00 for PR no. 6778.

Submission of BIDS: **July 29, 2003
2:00 p.m. at the 2/F ZCWD Main Bldg.,
Pilar St., Zamboanga City**

The ZCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor informalities in the bids received, and to award the contract to the supplier whose bid, as evaluated by the BAC I, is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ARNULFO A. ALFONSO**
BAC I CHAIRMAN

(PDI - July 21, 2003)

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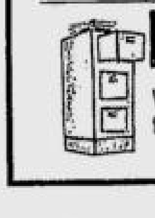

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HEAVY EQUIPMENT - JOHN DEERE S/N GD570A9509 Grader, GRANDALL G3WD Wheeled Excavator; (2) KOMATSU D50S Crawler Loaders; CATERPILLAR D7E Crawler Tractor; CATERPILLAR 826B Landfill Compactor; REX 355B Landfill Compactor

BOOM TRUCKS - HENDRICKSON Flatbed Truck w/ SIMON STRINGER 10T. Cap. Boom; FORD COMMANDER 8000 Utility Truck w/ 10T. Cap. Boom; NISSAN Flat Bed Truck w/ 3T. Cap. Boom; ISUZU ELF W/ 1T. Cap. Boom

TRUCKS/VEHICLES - (3) MACK, PETERBUILT, KENWORTH, FREIGHTLINER, REO, INTERNATIONAL, MITSUBISHI Tractor Heads; MITSUBISHI Flatbed; (4) MITSUBISHI Transit Mixers; (4) ISUZU Elf Dropside Trucks; 5000 Gal. Cap. Water Truck; MMC School Bus, (3) CHEVY Pick-Ups; SUSUKI SAMURAI 4x4

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority (NHA) is inviting interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for one year supply of selected housing construction materials for the NHA-Cabuyao Resettlement Project located in Cabuyao, Laguna. The contract duration shall be for a period of one year renewable upon agreement. The supplier must have had similar contract costing at least 50% of the Approved Budget.

The schedules of eligibility screening and bidding activities are as follows:

Issuance of Application of Eligibility Forms	-	July 18 - Aug. 1, 2003
Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirements	-	August 6, 2003
Issuance of Bid Documents	-	August 6-13, 2003
Pre-bid Conference	-	August 14, 2003
Dropping of Bids/Opening of Bids	-	August 20, 2003
Approved Budget	-	P20.00 M.

A. Interested suppliers are required to secure from the BAC Secretariat Office, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City the list of basic requirements for registration and Eligibility Statement Forms. Only suppliers duly registered with the NHA shall be allowed to participate in the eligibility screening. Unregistered bidders must register not later than the deadline of submission of letter of intent on July 31, 2003.

B. Eligibility requirement forms may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 at the NHA-BAC Secretariat Office with Tel. Nos. 929-8016 and 928-4561/65 local 262.

C Bid documents shall be issued to eligible bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of P2,500.00.

D. Bid security/deposits shall be in the form of cash, manager's or cashier's check only.

E. The provisions of the IRR of EO 40 shall govern all particulars relative to registration, eligibility screening, bidding, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract.

F. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally any minor defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
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(PDI - July 16 & 21, 2003)

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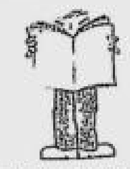

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Editor Leo Magno

NTC rules seek to cover standards for wireless Internet connection

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

A DRAFT government regulation on wireless local area network technology use in the Philippines intends to cover all wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi) standards set by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc. (IEEE), a government official told INQ7.net.

The IEEE is the body that set the standard for 802.11 wireless local area network connection—also popularly known as Wi-Fi—using certain radio frequencies. An alphabet soup of standards has been established—there's an 802.11a, 802.11b and 802.11g.

Wi-Fi offers wireless network connection, allowing Wi-Fi-capable computers and handheld devices to connect to the Internet without using wires or cables.

Edgardo Cabarios, director of the common carrier division of the NTC, said the pending guidelines on wireless local area networks and consumer radio frequency devices would also cover emerging Wi-Fi standards like the 802.11g and 802.11a. In the Philippines, only the 802.11b standard is currently being used.

During a jam-packed public hearing, telecom companies and other concerned parties asked the NTC if the draft circular intends to cover emerging technologies, as well as standards.

Cabarios said that the NTC aims to create guidelines that are "general" and forward-looking. However, NTC officials admitted that the agency faces the challenge of adopting newer policies based on newer and technological innovations in telecommunications and computing.

The NTC draft circular mainly aims to lift prohibition on the use of the 2.4-Ghz frequency band at the National Capital Region, Region III and Region IV in the country. These three regions are franchise areas of Meralco.

However, the same frequency band being used by Meralco to operate a communication system that supervises and controls its electrical system—the 2.4-Ghz band—is the same frequency being used by Wi-Fi (for 802.11b and 802.11g).

The NTC presently allows commercial deployment of Wi-Fi networks except in the three regions. The prohibition was imposed after Meralco filed complaints of interferences with their communication system due to "colorum" Wi-Fi operations since 1998, Meralco officials said.

The 802.11g standard is similar to the more widely used 802.11b standard set by the IEEE for wireless local area network technology. It promises to bring faster network data rates of up to 54 Mbps (megabits per second) from the current 11 Mbps delivered by 802.11b. Such a higher bandwidth would deliver multimedia video transmission and broadcast wirelessly. Both the 802.11g and 802.11b Wi-Fi standards operate on the 2.4-Ghz radio frequency band, allowing both standards to co-exist.

Meanwhile, the 802.11a standard, which has a 54-Mbps data rate, operates at the 5-GHz radio frequency band.

The IEEE 802.11 standards are a family of specifications that define how wireless local area network equipment should be manufactured to allow equipment from different manufacturers to work together.

Wi-Fi magic goes beyond PC devices

By Gerry Plaza

EXPECT the magic of wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi) connections to go beyond computers.

Manufacturers have added Wi-Fi links to media adapters that allow home electronic devices to play digital content stored in personal computers.

This means an MPG file can be viewed on a television set or an MP3 song played on a stereo component system without physical media, such as CDs or videocassette tapes.

All users have to do is plug media adapters to these devices and initiate links through Wi-Fi access points.

Cisco recently introduced its Wireless-B Media Adapter, which eliminates the need for cables in making digital transfers. It uses the 802.11b wireless standard that covers broadband transfers of up to 11 megabits per second, possible within a 300-foot area. Another product, Sony's Room Link, shares similar features and price tag ($200).

Previously, it was rare for Wi-Fi to go beyond PCs, laptops or PDAs. But with the explosion of Wi-Fi networks in the past year, there are well over a million homes and offices that connect to wireless networks.

It would not be long before wireless-ready appliances and home products with instant connectivity to home Wi-Fi networks become a reality.

Despite its promise, the new media adapters still have a long way to go before true trouble-free, multi-platform Wi-Fi connectivity is achieved.

These adapters are basically proprietary and still lacking in functionality. Even Cisco's Linksys adapter encountered difficulties in development and delays in roll-out. Its key drawback lies on platform limitations, wherein the adapter merely support computers running the Windows XP operating system.

Sony's adapter, on the other hand, only supports Sony products and the 802.11a standard.

However, the prospect of having more manufacturers releasing similar adapters, and eventually arriving at multi-vendor standards is certainly exciting. Also, electronics equipment builders would see the trend as compelling and release devices that would offer out-of-the-box support for Wi-Fi.

Who knows? The much hyped and talked-about media convergence could start at home.

'Semi-open' telecom industry hurting RP, according to study

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

A SEMI-OPEN telecommunications industry in the Philippines discourages long-term investments, according to an information and communications technology think-tank based in the United States.

Lauro Vives, vice president and Philippine country head of Meta Group Asia Pacific, said that a telecom market with "limited competition" does not augur well for long-term business deals, especially in a volatile economy like that of the Philippines.

"Continued improvement in competition will create annual 20-percent to 30-percent price reductions for the next three years," according to Meta Group analyst Bjarne Munch in a summarized report based on the latest Meta Group Telecom Maturity Model study which was distributed recently.

According to the study, the Philippine telecommunications industry is still dominated by the incumbent player, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), "impeding competitor access to essential local loop services."

While the study said that the Philippines has seen extensive build-out of alternative infrastructure throughout the country by new carriers over the years, PLDT still controls the market.

"Alternative carriers do not offer ubiquitous service coverage, and the main competition on data services is focused on niche areas with problematic connectivity," wrote Munch in the report.

From a regulatory perspective, the analyst said that the Philippine telecom industry remains a semi-open market "due to government requirements on dedicated geographic service areas, restricting national competition and enabling PLDT to exert market power via its nationwide license (franchise)."

Munch was referring to the service area scheme applied in the Philippines, but later on scrapped due to lack of results.

Munch also pointed out that access to the incumbent network of PLDT remains difficult.

Early this year, the Philippine Internet Service Organization, an association of local Internet service providers, filed a complaint with the National Telecommunications Commission over the alleged predatory pricing of PLDT's leased lines.

Munch noted that local Internet service providers (ISPs) pay PLDT P2,700 per subscriber for the lease of a telephone line, while PLDT offers digital subscriber line (DSL) service—a fast Internet service using traditional copper wires—to its landline subscribers for only P2,500.

The analyst also said that ISPs in the Philippines are charged 30 percent more than ordinary trunk-line business customers who pay P1,890.

Meanwhile, other telcos charge 40 to 50 percent less than PLDT for access to its network (local loop). PLDT's E1/R2 (data link) service to ISPs is currently priced at about P90,000 per circuit. Other telephone companies offer the same service at about P45,000 per circuit, the analyst added.

Munch said that government attempted last year to force PLDT to open its local loop with Executive Order 59, forcing the interconnection of networks.

But the analyst pointed out that this presidential directive lacked teeth. The NTC, the government agency tasked to implement EO 59, could only force compliance by prohibiting loan approval to carriers, and by allowing consumers to suspend the rates charged to them.

Vives predicted that the incumbent (PLDT) would be "unbundling its local loop but impose higher fees for interconnection to its network" in the next few years.

INQ7 recently bagged two awards for science and technology journalism from the Department of Science and Technology. INQ7 reporter Erwin Oliva won the online award for the professional category for cyber (information technology) for the second straight year, while the Infotech section of INQ7 tied with BusinessWorld Online's ITmatters for the institutional category for online media. Oliva received the awards given during the celebration of the National Science and Technology Week. With him are (from left) Jesus Matubis Jr., member of the board of judges; DoST secretary Estrella Alabastro, and DoST undersecretary Fortunato dela Peña.

INQ7 bags DoST awards for online journalism

INQ7 Interactive Inc.—the joint online multimedia news website of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA Network—has bagged two journalism awards from the Department of Science and Technology (DoST) awards.

INQ7.net reporter Erwin Lemuel Oliva won the online award for the professional category for information technology for the second straight year.

Oliva is a reporter of INQ7.net, writing mostly information and communications technology-related articles.

INQ7.net's Infotech section also tied with BusinessWorld Online's ITmatters for the institutional category for online media.

The Science and Technology award is given to recognize journalists who have made significant contributions toward the promotion of science and technology news and information. The awards were given during the celebration of the National Science and Technology Week.

Other winners for the professional category are Rudy Fernandez of the Philippine Star for print, Susan Layos of dzRM and Divine Reyes of dwAN for radio, Mayette Camacho of Entrepinoy and Good Take of IBC-13 for television.

The DoST Science and Technology Awards is an annual event established in 1988.

70-30 SMS revenue share of Smart is fair: cell phone content providers

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

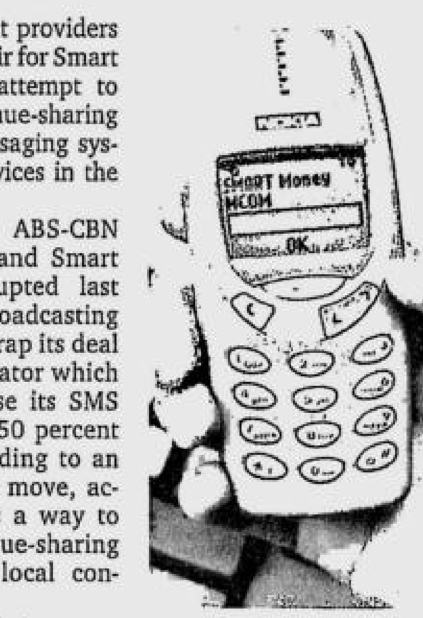
LOCAL mobile content providers said that it was only fair for Smart Communications to attempt to standardize its revenue-sharing scheme for short messaging system (SMS)-based services in the Philippines.

A row between ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and Smart Communications erupted last week after the broadcasting firm threatened to scrap its deal with the mobile operator which was planning to raise its SMS revenue share from 50 percent to 70 percent, according to an INQUIRER report. The move, according to Smart, is a way to standardize its revenue-sharing arrangements with local content providers.

"I think it is just fair in general for Smart to have such an arrangement with local content providers," said an official of a local provider of mobile content who declined to be identified.

The official said Smart justifies the current revenue sharing arrangement with marketing cost associated with advertising a content provider's service.

"It is an open secret that ABS-CBN has been getting 50-percent revenue share because it brings more into the table with media mileage," he added.



REVENUES generated from SMS have proven to be huge enough for mobile content providers and cell phone operators to fight about.

The official stressed, however, that ABS-CBN has the right to insist on its existing revenue share agreement with Smart because of the benefits Smart gets in terms of media exposure.

But the official also noted that there are a lot of local content providers lining up for Smart. Therefore, if one does not agree to the existing revenue sharing plan, the mobile operator can readily go to another company that can offer similar content.

Another local content provider disclosed that Smart has had different revenue-sharing arrangements with companies based on what they can bring into the table. Thus, the move to "standardize" its arrangements would augur well for smaller players.

Industry sources revealed that Smart has apparently increased its revenue sharing scheme by 10 percent since last year.

"We were getting less than 30 percent last year," said an official of another local content provider who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

But if the company had its way, the official would push for higher revenue sharing arrangements similar to other Asian countries like China or Japan.

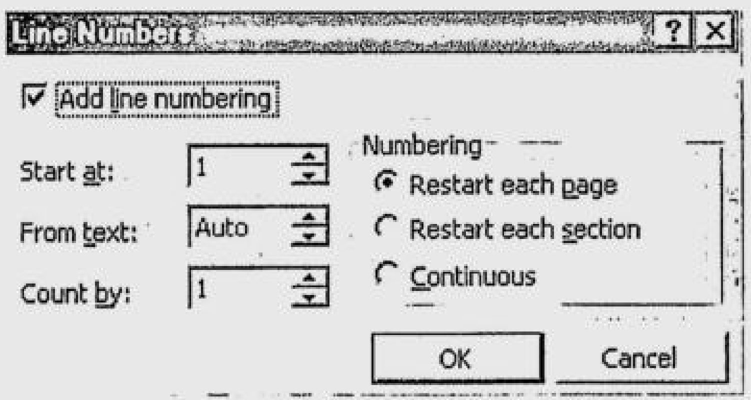
The official cited a recent report by Far Eastern Economic Review, noting that a Chinese SMS content provider company called Net East was given up to 85-percent share of the revenues out of SMS services provided to China Mobile.

However, he admitted that China Mobile's situation is different from the Philippines since the operator gets more revenues out of its voice service.

In a separate interview, Smart Communications declined to further comment on the ongoing dispute.

"We've come to an understanding with ABS-CBN not to discuss this matter to media now that we're under negotiations. It is not good business to negotiate in public through media," Ramon Isberto, head of public affairs of Smart, told INQ7.net.

"But I also cannot commit to disclose our deal after our negotiations with ABS-CBN," added Isberto, when asked if the company is still willing to talk about the deal after they come into an agreement.



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Adding line numbers to MS Word documents

By Jerry Liao

POWERTIPS

FOR editing purposes, it may be useful to number the lines on a page of a Microsoft Word document. Here's how to do it:

1) Open your MS Word Document

2) Go to "File" then "Page Setup"

3) Select the "Layout" tab

4) Click on the "Line numbers" button then select the options that you want

5) Click "OK"

In case you want to see the numbers while editing, click the "View" menu and select "Page Layout."

For more tips, visit www.brainshare.com.ph. We would like to invite our readers to join The Powertips Group. All you have to do is register with us online at www.brainshare.com.ph/register.htm and receive free tips via e-mail.

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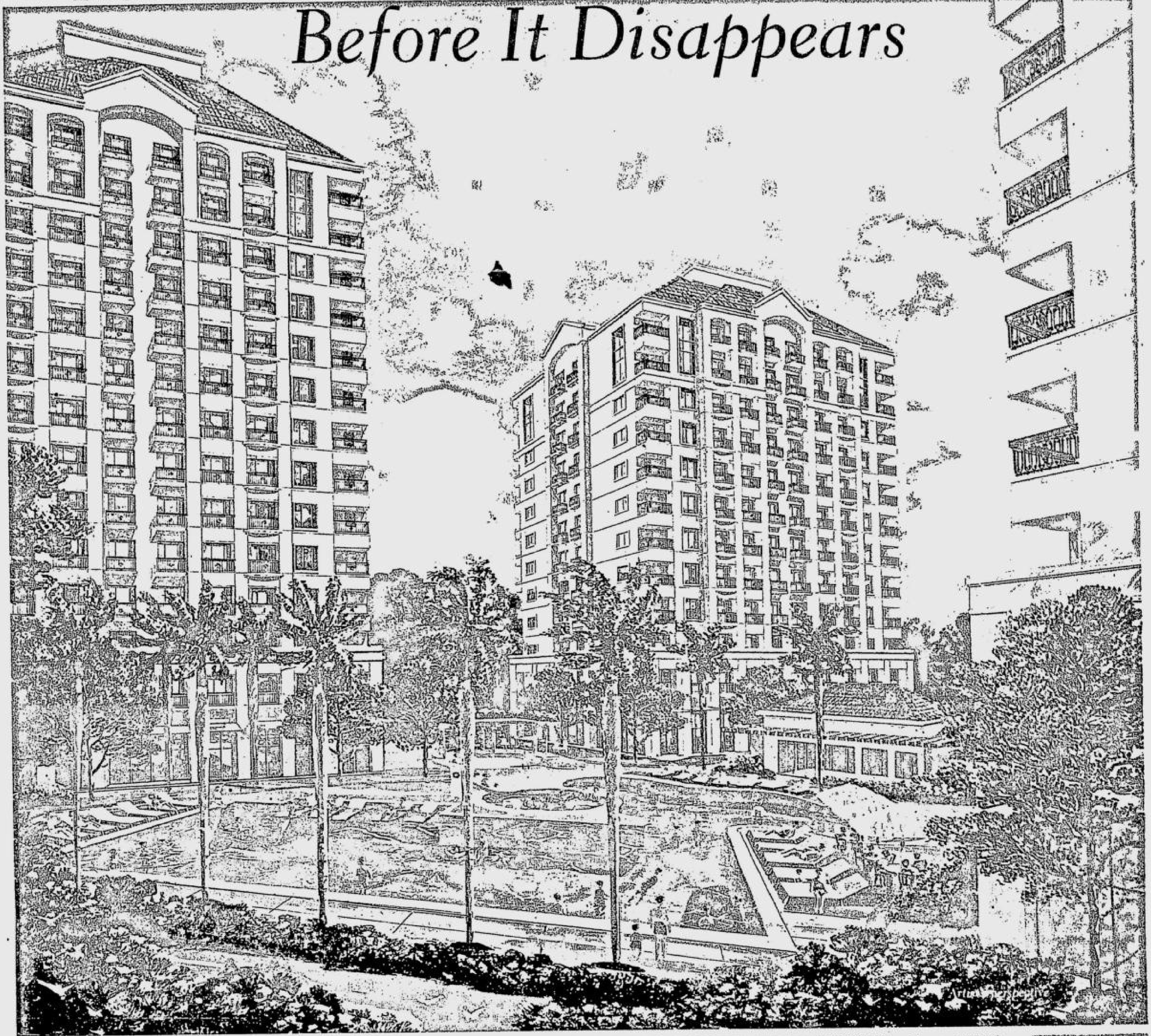
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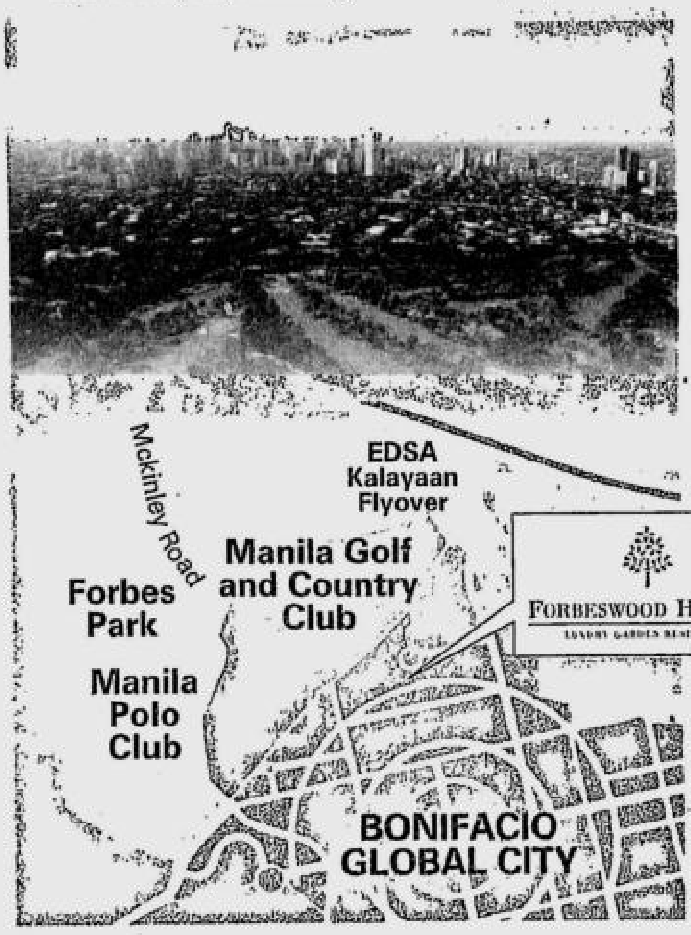
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Firms should pay more than lip service

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

REPUTABLE Philippine corporations have long been preaching the message that they are not only out to sell a product or a service to the public, but that they also give back a part of their profit through programs that help uplift the plight of Filipinos—be it in education, environment or poverty alleviation.

A recent "Public Perception Survey on Corporate Social Responsibility in the Philippines," however, showed that only one out of 10 Filipinos are aware that companies are socially responsible, and as much as 60 percent of the respondents thought that corporations have no social development programs in place.

The most basic view on CSR is one of obligation by companies to increase wages of employees, spend for the environment, send volunteers to help in tree planting or give substantial donations to the poor.

Sobering results

These are but some of the sobering results of the survey commissioned by The Philippine Business for Social Progress, one of the leaders of corporate social responsibility for the past 32 years.

It tasked the Social Weather Stations to conduct the survey, precisely to answer the question on whether these corporate responsibility programs impact on the lives of the people companies said they choose to serve.

PBSP chair Manuel V. Pangilinan, also the president and CEO of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., said during the closing ceremony of the recently held "Corporate Social Responsibility Week" that the results showed that "there was no clear or distinct articulation of what CSR actually meant to (people's) lives."

And there lies the challenge to local companies.

"May I say then that based on the survey, the many tasks of corporate social responsibility remain an unfinished business. Our challenge must be to make CSR truly relevant to our people, and show that CSR can make a lasting difference to those who feel most alienated and marginalized," Pangilinan stressed.

Higher level

Pangilinan recommended that Philippine corporations should, thus, respond to these challenges by taking CSR efforts to a higher level.

"First, corporate social responsibility should be holistic and integrated. Good intentions are not enough. Short-term programs are not enough. The campaign against poverty must recognize the complexity of its causes, must think not only of giving a man a fish, or simply teaching him how to fish, but also whether he has a market for his catch, and if his fishing grounds are environmentally degraded," Pangilinan said.

FIRMS/ B2-2

KING

CHURCHILL

Eloquence needs to come back to the corporate world

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

THREE historical personalities in modern times are renowned for their eloquence—former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, former American President John F. Kennedy and civil rights leader and martyr Martin Luther King.

Certainly, there must be other outstanding leaders of our time—like Nelson Mandela of South Africa and our own Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino with their spellbinding speeches and, better still, their role in awakening the raw courage of their respective nations. But there are not enough materials to conclude that they have elevated eloquence to the level of science and art.

Churchill wrote his own speeches, according to his grandson and historian, Winston S. Churchill—a feat that is now unheard of with the abundant supply of speech writers.

Kennedy, while he had a battery of wordsmiths and rhetoric experts, provided direction to the crafting of his speeches and had the blue pencil on hand for the final draft.

King delivered his speeches, notably his "I Have a Dream," which changed forever the approach to social and political change, not by arms but by the power of conscience on the establishment or the "oppressors."

These historical leaders, whose voices and images expressed the soul and sentiment of their time, are actually adept in both the written—and spoken—word.

Authors too

Churchill wrote the two-volume epic, "History of the English-Speaking Peoples," a tour de force by itself. Kennedy won the Pulitzer Prize for his "Profiles of Courage." King wrote his messages and sermons as a Baptist minister, his cadence and metaphor reminiscent of the orally transmitted scriptures in the Old Testament.

All three had the enviable combination of capturing the soul of a subject in writing, and then making the written text alive in delivery—sonorous for Churchill, compelling for Kennedy, and fiery for King.

What is the point of all this talk about these three eloquent leaders?

Eloquence has a place in leadership.

Nothing expresses the value of public speaking better than the statement of Churchill himself. Responding to accolades given to him as the Greatest Parliamentarian of all time, Churchill said, describing the resolve of his nation and his role:

"Their (the British's) will was resolute and remorseless and, as it proved, unconquerable. ... It was the nation and race dwelling all round the globe that had the lion heart. I had the luck to be called upon to give the roar."

Kennedy, obviously a fan of Churchill, had something to say about the latter's gift: "He mobilized the English language and sent it into battle."

Some would say that Churchill presided over the epic drama of war, and Kennedy has the built-in romance of a modern-day Camelot in the White House.

You might say that we, modern-day leaders, have nothing to do with such great enterprise. We go through the mundane challenges, say, of pushing tax reforms, combating terrorism, expanding market share or rallying our customers nationwide.

Eloquence pumps up adrenaline whether it is used in the exclusive confines of the annual stockholders meeting or across the vastness of the battlefield.

Rhetoric has a rallying effect on stakeholders to achieve their business mission or to win the war for jet fighters in "their finest hour."

ELOQUENCE/ B2-2

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Credit for the poor: Panacea or placebo?

(Second of two parts)

MAPPING THE FUTURE

By Antonio T. Hernandez

IT is said that understanding the seriousness of poverty can be no different to understanding pain, love, hatred or satisfaction which you may have to undergo in order to appreciate fully well. Indeed, one may never appreciate romance until he himself has fallen in love.

That is why, it is said, old maids oftentimes misunderstand the heartthrob of the adolescent. That is why, the adolescent oftentimes misunderstands the heartaches of parents.

Only Grandma in her sexy denims seems to understand the heartthrob and the heartache because she has gone through them full circle.

The classic expression that you cannot understand someone until you walk in his shoes addresses the key point. That is why, in contemporary development workshops or seminars, there is at times a module on "rural immersion" which means staying for some time in depressed communities so as to get some kind of actual personal exposure to poverty. The danger though, is when the immersion takes the making of an excursion. Then, the participants miss out on the lesson.

Prof. John Friedman who covers regional planning and development at the University of California, views poverty as "akin to inadequate access to social power ... inadequate access to education, to technology, to health care and to credit" among others. In effect, to address poverty is to address what it is about. This brings us back to the issue of available and accessible physical support facilities, of social/extension services, which are by themselves important pre-requisites to rural credit.

Poverty alleviation efforts, as it is happening around us, appear more as a public relations smokescreen than a real economic upliftment. Not a market-oriented but a media-oriented concern to further the interest of the benefactor more than the beneficiary; to keep the poor, wittingly or unwittingly, perpetually tied to a tolerant but iniquitous relationship which will not allow him to move up in economic or social status ... a relationship no different from the trader-farmer setup which often finds the latter practically controlled and forever indebted to the former.

No less than the 1996 World Bank study on poverty has made mention that the past economic strategies have not managed to make substantial inroads into the incidence of poverty. Despite robust breaks in the economy, the benefits has yet to filter down to the bottom poor. Increased credit and economic growth' per se do not seem to guarantee the welfare of a people!

Antecedents to credit

Admittedly, credit is important in poverty alleviation. But certainly it is not everything. Neither is credit first in the sequence of development interventions. The lessons of the past have crystallized essential antecedents to a sustainable and responsive dispensing of credit for the poor, particularly under a collateral-free or cash flow lending scenario, which may be outlined as follows:

1. The preparedness of the recipient to manage and optimize the use of credit facility: his capability, his skills to operate his project productively and be able to repay afterward—an area more meaningful as a field of focus for grant-in-aid funding support prior to regular credit.

2. The suitability of the project area: the conducive policy environment, the public infrastructure and extension services supportive of the enterprise—also an area where grant-in-aid or subsidies can work without damage to the prudential standards of credit.

3. The practicality of the project to be undertaken relative to geo-psychographic preferences: favorable market of suppliers (available materials) and willing buyers (reliability of demand) to fairly assure product competitiveness and profitability.

4. An intermediation system friendly to a savings-driven lending: financing terms that cultivate and mobilize the savings potential of borrowers, of projects and of the community thereby promoting internal capital formation to compliment credit sustainability and expansion.

5. Market-oriented interest rate policy which allows for cost recovery: attract and encourage the participation of private sector capital in rural and/or micro financing; and for government (its non-financial agencies) to finally step back and focus on what it can do best, i.e., creating a conducive regulatory framework; reallocating scarce resource and/or grants-in-aid to institutional capability building, to research and technology, to welfare assistance or survival needs like nutrition, education and health.

Studies show that government is not in the league of effective lending or intermediation agents. As Yaron and Charitonenko of Chemonics International have observed (in their 1999 assessment of the Cost of State-owned Agricultural Credit Institutions presented in the Rural Financial Market Development Seminar in Goethe University of Frankfurt) "...state-owned institutions act more as an income transfer agents of government and tend to be financial intermediaries only in the very restricted sense of converting public-sector financial contributions into concessional credit often funded by low-cost money. Their involvement with borrowers is a consequence of loans aimed at increasing commodity output and promoting new technology per se. Consequently, performance indicators veer towards target lending and disbursement goals rather than to financial viability. So much so that quick loan approval and disbursement, rapid growth in the number and volume of loans are the most important yardsticks. Lending cost, skills needs, loan delinquency and defaults are largely ignored until financial crisis emerges. And the expectation that the government will continue funding does not instill the financial discipline necessary to maintain an entity as a going concern."

Yardstick of success

Experience over the years tends to demonstrate that credit has rarely been given a fair chance. For credit to work well and last, we have to view it like we view our forest reserves—a natural resource to be sustained not just for now but for future users. In other words, the lending cycle, from loan approval, to release, to final repayment should not suffer snaps after snaps so as to avoid a credit dry-up and/or a squeeze on succeeding borrowers needing financing. Credit not collected sums up to a lending failure or eventual lender collapse.

The antecedents earlier outlined should logically provide credit the fair chance to play its role and survive; provide the safety net beneficial to the borrowers and protective of the funders.

Conversely, the absence of those antecedents constrains the easy flow of credit to really sustain poverty alleviation efforts and succeed. The solution here cannot be the traditional mandatory allocation of concessional credit which we all know distorts the financial market but the remaking of the financial policy environment by government to attract private capital involvement and make credit really work as a sustainable resource.

The bottom line for continued credit access cannot be other than operational efficiency and respectable financial results. This can only be assured as target clients imbibe and exhibit commitment, discipline and responsibility through such factors as demonstrated technical know-how, untainted financial integrity, and increased savings or willingness to postpone immediate gratification for long term gains. To the extent that we, as support groups, are able to transfer these values to the target clients, and make them more bankable, shall be the ultimate yardstick of success of our assistance efforts.

In the final analysis, it is not really what we discuss in this space that matters. It is what we actually do afterward, when we are back to our respective responsibility areas that will have an impact in the days to come and prove to all and sundry whether credit for the poor is panacea or placebo.

(This author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and the SVP of the Land Bank of the Philippines. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Eloquence needs to come back ...

From page B2-1

A well-crafted address effectively delivered rekindles the "hope (that) springs eternal in the human breast"—calling to mind Kennedy's thunderously applauded "Ich bin en Berliner!" address in 1963, prophetically telling Berliners that someday freedom would reign in Berlin.

Peggy Noonan, speechwriter to the Great Communicator, Ronald Reagan, addresses the concerns of modern-day political and business leaders:

"We are all asked sooner or later to say a few words at the annual meeting, the parent-teacher gathering, the awards dinner, the memorial service, the wedding...

Noonan lamented the popularity of "sound bites," brought about by the proliferation of television cameras crying for just that one sentence that will "drive" an entire fast breaking story. What went out, she said, was the utmost care for and the consummate craft of a good speech.

In her book, "Simply Speaking," Noonan said that you must have a healthy respect for your audience waiting for you to say something important—otherwise, you are wasting their time.

There is a tendency among business executives, even CEOs of the top 1,000 firms, to make their speeches bland, bereft of rhetorical devices, loaded with statistics and ever-dependent on a Power Point presentation, with the help of the ubiquitous multimedia projector.

Something is missing in public gatherings that we usually attend—whether these are conferences, consultative meetings, general membership gatherings or even seminars. What's sadly absent is eloquence.

Somehow they hook you into joining them. Or you come away amply inspired to do something.

Or try churches—Catholic charismatic, evangelicals and pentecostals. You either get fire and brimstone preachings or soul stirring sermons. Either way, these ministers touch the core, unlike speeches from the workaday world that succeed only in telling you what to do sounding like memoranda that are more at home on company bulletin boards.

Richard Dowis, president of the 2,000-member Society for the Preservation of English Language and Literature and author of "The Lost Art of the Great Speech," says that great speech writing uses literary devices also used by great ad copy and fiction writers. For samplers, he cites "The Rule of Three."

He said: "The principle is that the human ear has a peculiar affinity for triplets. Writers with a good ear for cadence use triads routinely." He cited the Biblical passage: "And now abideth faith, hope and charity..." He mentioned Julius Ceasar's "I came, I saw, I conquered," and then went on to quote Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "I see one third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished."

Interestingly, he said, Churchill's phrase—"blood, sweat and tears"—is actually "blood, toil, tears and sweat." But human memory preferred to us the triad.

The "rule of three" is just one of the many principles that come in handy when people use rhetorical devices to make the speech memorable—one that will send your English or Filipino "language to battle" to win hearts and minds.

So, can we keep company with—and learn from—Churchill, Kennedy, Luther King and Ninoy Aquino, even while we are preoccupied with the business of heading a government agency, running an enterprise, a school or an NGO or a homeowners' association?

The operative principle is this: Leaders are called upon to inspire. You inspire if you can get to the soul of a program or a campaign and then communicate this to the human heart first, then to the mind—and lead the crowd to action.

A tale was told differentiating the impact of Greek orator Demosthenes from other speakers. When the other speakers talked, the crowd chorused, "O, how beautiful the speech is!" When Demosthenes spoke, the crowd roared: "Let's march with Demosthenes!"

(The author is head of Creative Point International, Philippine affiliate of Hill & Knowlton, engaged in advocacy and communications consulting; and professor at the UP-College of Mass Communications)

Presidents of insurance firm's subsidiaries head industry groups

IT is uncommon for company presidents belonging to the same group of companies to lead their respective industry associations within the same term of office. However, this just happened with three of Insular Life's subsidiary presidents.

Insular Savings Bank's (ISB) president Susan R. Figueras was elected president of the Chamber of Thrift Banks; Insular Life Health Care's (I-Care) president Carlos D. Da Silva was elected president of the Association of Health Maintenance Organizations of the Philippines Inc. (AHMOPI); and Insular Investment and Trust Corp.'s (IITC) president Ronnie B. Alcantara was elected to the board of directors of Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex), Investment Houses Association of the Philippines (Ihap) and Philippine Association of Management Accountants (Pama).

DA SILVA

FIGUERAS

ALCANTARA

They all agree that managing trade or industry associations is more challenging than managing their respective companies. However, they are one in saying that the benefits of growing professionally and personally outweigh the difficulties of the added responsibilities.

Da Silva has been an officer of the AHMOPI for the past five years. He joined Insular Life in 1971 and rose from the ranks to become first vice president seconded to I-Care as SVP and head of marketing operations, and then as president in 2003.

Figueras, who has had more than 30 years of experience in banking and finance admits that, "the experience has definitely a profound impact on me and the bank as it provides opportunities to work out positive changes for the industry and ultimately, the banking public." Figueras has served as president of Unibancard Corporation and Philippine Savings Bank, SVP and COO of Banco del Oriente Savings Bank, and Security Diners International Corp.

Government's partners

Alcantara's connection with the three trade organizations, particularly with Ihap, has enabled him to actively participate in the Philippine legislative process especially with issues concerning the local capital market.

Alcantara is also director of Insular Savings Bank, I-Care and Unionbank Currency Brokers Inc. He used to handle the Investment Management unit of Insular Life before he was seconded to Insular Investment as SVP in charge of finance and money market divisions.

Figueras, who heads the 66-strong membership of Chamber of Thrift Banks (CTB), says their activities are also anchored on aiding the government's programs on economic growth and development. CTB, which counts as its members, savings and mortgage banks, private development banks, and savings and loan associations, fully supports the small and medium enterprises in line with the government's National SME Development Plan, "Yabong! ... Malilit na Negosyo."

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Firms should pay more than lip service

From page B2-1

CSR efforts should also be sustainable and designed for the long term, he said, and corporations would only be able to sustain the efforts by linking its business with social purpose.

"In the process, we nurture skills that we find employable, lessen the country's dependence on foreign technology and ensure our own corporate growth. We can thus, justify the investment in CSR, even as we create a more enduring way to make this nation a better place," Pangilinan said.

He, however, stressed that only those corporations that live corporate responsibility within its own ranks could even begin to bring that message across to its public.

"Corporate social responsibility should be grounded in strong ethical values and sound governance. Projects need funding, funding presumes that sponsors are profitable to begin with, and the record shows that companies with strong governance systems outperform their peers in a wide range of performance metrics," Pangilinan said.

Moral conflict

"More to the point, no company can credibly promote social progress if it betrays the trust of its various stakeholders—if it defrauds its investors, maltreats its workers, cheats its customers or degrades its environment," he said.

But this does not prevent companies from doing it despite the moral conflict.

Professor Sandra Waddock of Boston College noted in an unpublished paper, "Fluff is Not Enough" that the fallen company Enron Corp. rang all the bells for corporate social responsibility.

It was listed as one of the 100 best companies to work for in the United States, it received six environmental awards and its management gave speeches on communication, respect and integrity.

People may have been deceived, Pangilinan said, but these incidents should not make companies veer away from their purpose.

"In the moral realm, it is about a fundamental concern for the common good. In the economic realm, it is about having the common good transcend narrow self-interest. It is about broadening corporate purpose from serving shareholders to serving stakeholders, from liberating executives from the destructive mandate to maximize shareholder value at any cost," Pangilinan said.

Broadcaster turned entrepreneur opens branch no. 5

From page B2-4

at Centrepoint and the one at SM North Edsa are magazine stands" Ces explains.

"The expansion this year was unforeseen, but since opportunities (SM North, and Greenbelt, and Paseo) arose, we simply grabbed them. We reinvested the earnings of our two initial branches.

In the magazine business, volume is key. I think part of our success is also the well-designed stores (Rock's work) plus magazines generally market themselves. My timing in entering the business was good. We rode on the crest of the local publishing industry where competition is now very, very stiff among the local publishers. Key to our success is we pay our suppliers on time, we build a strong relationship with them, we have other merchandise that enhance the look of the store like candles, costume jewelry, alternative music, VHS tapes from the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism. We also keep our prices very competitive."

ROCK Drilon, Finance Sec. Lito N. Camacho, Vicky Garchitorena and Ces.

BRANCH no. 5.

ABS-CBN's Freddie M. Garcia, Ces, Dr. Vicki Belo and Gabby Lopez.

SM's Hans T. Sy

LANCE Gokongwei, INQUIRER's Victor Agustin, Ces, and Baby Magazine's Chet Espino.

AGRICULTURE Secretary Cito Lorenzo

MOVEMENTS

Oakwood appoints execs

Oakwood Premier Ayala Center announced the appointment of two new executives: Jerome Cartailler who will be assuming the position of executive chef and Eddie U. Torres, who has been assigned as assistant food and beverage manager.

Cartailler brings almost 18 years of experience to the post. In his last position, he served at the executive chef of Hotel Cambodiana, formerly Sofitel, in Phnom Penh. He managed functions such as state dinners as well as private caterings for the king of Cambodia.

He has extensive experience in the Philippines having set up systems for Plantation Bay Resort as well as Fridays in Boracay. He has also worked at The Heritage Hotel Manila.

He began his career at the Hotel Bayerisher Hof Munich in 1984 and moved up the ranks in various postings at the Hotel InterContinental Luxembourg, Sheraton Hotel Stockholm, Sheraton Hotel Dubai, among other establishments. In his capacity as sous chef, he was part of the pre-opening team that ran the hotel resort of Euro-Disney in Paris, France in 1993.

Torres trained in a number of Manila hotels including the Westin Philippine Plaza, The Heritage Hotel Manila and Hyatt Regency Manila.

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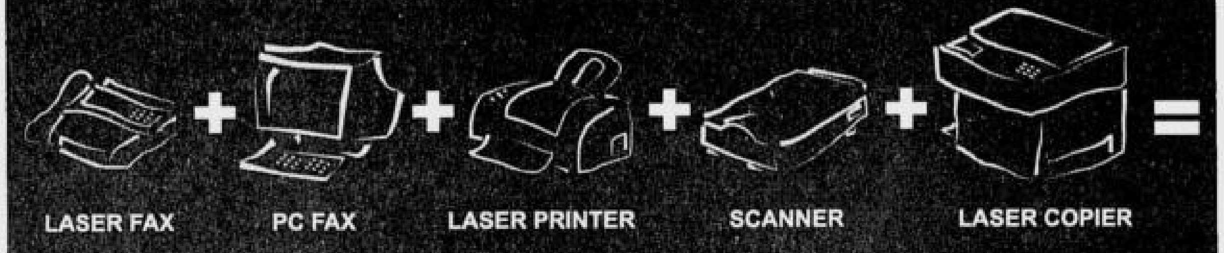

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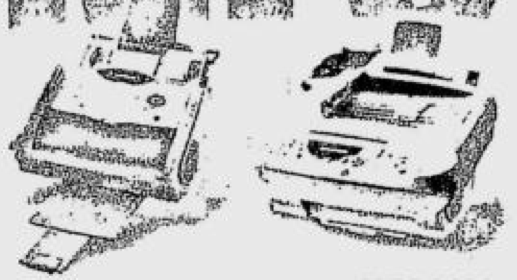

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BOBSON CEO and President Mr. Victor Tan and VP/Finance Mrs. Rosemarie Tan (2nd and 3rd from left) receives the award from CUP president Quirino Marquinez (left) and CUP Director Sonia Lim (right) during the 14th ANCA ceremonies held last July 4, 2003.

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GENERALI Pilipinas' COO Ma. Sharon B. Maranan.

JOHNNY VILLENA

Taking the shortest queue, she ends up with a lifelong career

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

SHE said she abhorred math when she was studying. Yet today, Sharon B. Maranan, EVP and COO of Generali Pilipinas, is only one of about 60 actuaries in the country.

An actuary is a statistician who calculates insurance premiums, risks, dividends and annuity rates. Knowledge of numbers is obviously a must in this line of work.

When she finished high school, she missed the college entrance exam at UP, where she was almost guaranteed to get in as she graduated top of her class in HS.

She opted instead to go to the University of Sto. Tomas.

The enrollment line at the College of Engineering was too long, so with the one at the College of Science.

The shortest queue was at the College of Math so she decided to line up there and enroll with the intention of moving to another college after one term.

"But I'm a loyalist so I stayed. And I didn't do so bad. People were telling me to be an actuary. I did not even know what an actuary was when I took Math," she recalls.

She decided to go for the actuarial exams, which at that time took three years to complete. She was by then working for the Yuchengco-owned Grepalife.

Maranan says she was able to go for the exams because Grepalife supported her. This was also largely because an actuary is a rare commodity in the business world and they are given premiums in terms of pay and position.

When she passed the exams, she was immediately promoted to assistant vice president.

"AVP is the minimum rank for an actuary. It is a recognized qualification by all companies because there are so few," she explains.

Tending the family

She stayed with Grepalife for a good number of years until 1998 when family demands made her drop her career, albeit temporarily.

"I found out that my autistic child was not being well taken cared of by my caregiver," she says.

Maranan dropped her job and focused on motherhood. But because her talents are rare, she remained in demand and provided consultancy work.

In late 1999, Generali Pilpinas, invited her to join them. At that time the life and non-life firm, owned 60 percent by the Italian based firm and the Kuok group of companies; and 40 percent by Banco de Oro, the universal bank of taipan Henry Sy, was just starting up. Formal operations began the following year.

She helped set the groundwork for Generali's entry into the limited market of insurance in the Philippines.

Maranan admits that the economic state of most Filipinos limits its substantial growth of the insurance industry but points out that there remain huge potentials for the industry.

MARANAN is only one of about 60 actuaries in the country.

Stable firms

Maranan notes that after the 9-11 tragedy in New York, where many insurance firms suffered substantial losses, there was an increased consciousness of the value of insurance and a shift to the more stable and known companies.

"Our entry came at a good time. After 9-11 people think more of insurance and they looked for the more stable players," she says.

She says Generali's long history in insurance in Europe dates back to 1831 when Assicurazioni Generali was founded in the bustling port city of Trieste, then part of the Austrian Empire.

Today it has 107 insurance companies all over the world, 54 holding snd financial companies and six real estate companies.

It has an AA rating from Standard and Poor's, the international credit rating agency.

Maranan says there are advantages to having a multinational insurance firm come into the country, such as technology transfer.

"Whereas in a local firm, your knowledge is limited to what is going on in the domestic market, in a foreign firm , you get to know the insurance market in all parts of the world."

Generali is a very professionally-run firm, she says. The only drawback is she has to work in different time zones.

And the work, she says is very challenging.

She says Generali is doing well with the non-life side of the business with P102 million worth of premiums in March 2000, P319million in 2001 and P505 million in 2002.

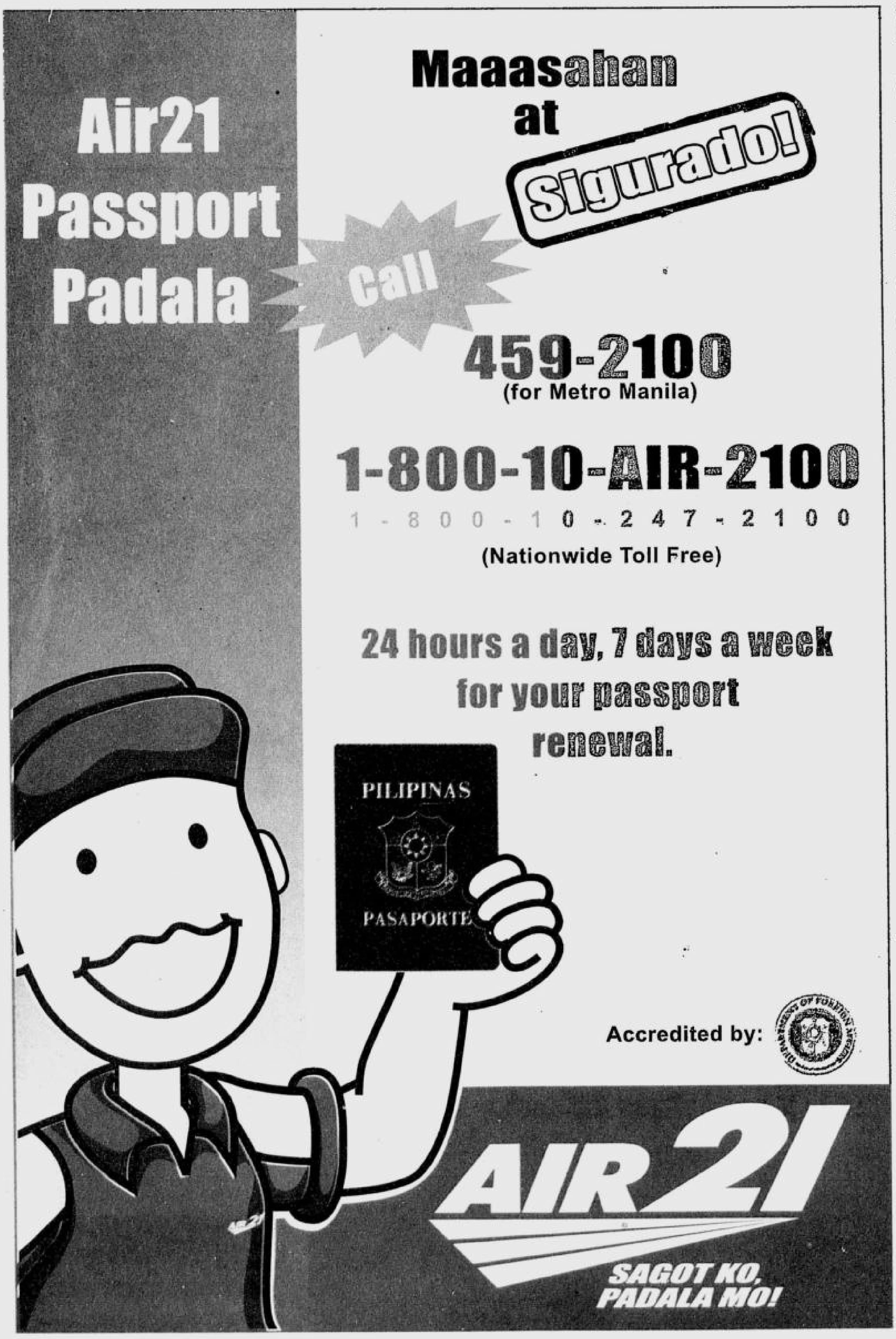
Life insurance is slower to grow, she admits, but adds that people are realizing the beneifts of it.

Generali has tapped the Taishan Insurance Brokers Phils. Inc., as a marketing arm. Taishan is partly owned by the Kuok group.

It is also tapping the branches of Bando de Oro to do bank assurance—meaning they sell Generali's various products to the bank's clients.

They have also set up kiosks in SM malls to sell the firm's products.

"Malls create opportunities for non-life," she says.



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Broadcaster turned entrepreneur opens branch number 5

AFTER years of interviewing business folks in her show, *Usapang Business* at Channel 2, broadcast journalist Ces Oreña-Drilon decided to put what she had seen and heard into practice.

Last Thursday, she opened her fifth outlet for mag:net, a magazine and art shop, at the Paseo Center (former IBM building in Makati).

The venture is a partnership with husband, artist Rock Drilon, who takes care of operations, while Ces is in charge of marketing.

Ces says "the concept was suggested by Monchet Olives who is SVP of New Business (of ABS-CBN).

Since Rock was an artist and in charge of operations, he suggested we put up a gallery in ABS-CBN."

Since her acquisition of the first mag:net from Joey Enriquez of Figlia, a couple of years ago, she has been expanding at a rate of almost two a year. Last year she opened her second branch at the Loop 9501 at the ABS-CBN compound.

"But only the second, and the fifth ones have galleries and specialty books; the one in Greenbelt 3 (level 3), has CDs and books; the branch

BROADCASTER/ B2-3

How do I end a meeting without seeming rude?

GOODNESS GRACES

Lia S. Bernardo

Q: I normally start the week with a staff meeting every Monday morning. These meetings normally go on forever and seem to drag even though pertinent points and issues have already been addressed. How do I end the meeting without seeming rude to my boss and colleagues?

A: Most meetings do sometimes have the tendency to drag on. The best and most professional way to end not only these types of meetings, but also all meetings, is for you to lead in terms of proposing "next steps." That is to say, you can mention something to the effect of summarizing the pertinent points that have been brought up, and then throw the question to the team as to the next steps they will take.

This will summarize the whole meeting as well as set the agenda for the next meeting. That would be the perfect way to end a meeting and at the same time you accomplished something as well as acted professionally.

Q: I am an executive secretary to the president of a very prestigious company. My boss often asks me to do everything for him that is outside of work.

For instance, it was his friend's birthday and I was asked to buy a gift. I was asked to arrange for cable TV to be connected at his new apartment. Furthermore, I was even told to go to a department store to buy him some undershirts. Is this right? Is this expected of me? I am a fresh graduate and this is my first job so I need help.

A: As an executive secretary you are technically limited to assist in business related matters only. However, you need to make some adjustments depending on the culture of the company in which you are employed.

Ask the other secretaries what they do for their bosses. Long time personal assistants and executive secretaries do these types of errands for their bosses, so it may help for you to consult those who have been there longer than you have.

However, I think buying undershirts may be a bit off line and is not even an exception to the rule. However, arranging for cable services may be tolerated. You have to approach this very delicately because your boss may take it the wrong way and your future career is in his hands. But you need to weigh your options, if you feel that you are doing more personal things for him such as buying gifts, picking up laundry, doing his groceries etc., then, you need to talk to your boss. Explain to him in a firm but gentle manner that your office duties as an executive secretary are being compromised by running personal errands for him.

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Louie C. Camino

Boots: He was 'heartthrob' to the end

By Marinel R. Cruz

WHEN Oscar Moreno died at dawn last Saturday, he still had the devastating good looks that once prompted a European newspaper to describe him as "the Clark Gable of Philippine movies," according to his daughter, actress Boots Anson-Roa.

"I remember him telling me last Friday how tired he was," Boots told INQUIRER Entertainment the night after her father's death. "He had not slept in two days because of the pain. All the x-ray, blood and urine tests must have exhausted him even more. "But he was still the heartthrob that he was," she added.

Oscar Gamboa Anson in real life, the former heartthrob died at the National Kidney Institute in Quezon City at 4:15 a.m. Saturday. He was brought to the hospital early Thursday morning after he complained of chest pains and shortness of breath, his daughter said.

"He wanted to be cremated," she said. "He wanted his ashes put beside the his parents' ashes in one crypt."

The actor's remains, which will be cremated on July 24 after the 10 a.m. mass, will be brought to the Anson crypt at the Sacred Heart Church in Makati where the urns holding the ashes of his parents, Ramon Anson and Elisa Gamboa, are also kept.

Moreno's body now lies in state at the Funeraria Paz on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City.

Moreno had been undergoing kidney dialysis since June, his daughter said. INQUIRER Entertainment had featured him in "Yesterday" in the May 16, 2003 issue.

"He had been too weak to walk this past week," said Boots. "We moved him around on a wheelchair. He had been eating regularly, though."

She said that two years ago, her father was diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver, but doctors decided against a liver transplant. They said that at his age, he might not be able to fully recover from the operation.

"But he is responding well to treatment," Boots had said in an earlier interview. "Besides, he diligently did his exercise every morning."

His kidney ailment was diagnosed shortly after, according to his daughter.

Moreno is survived by his sec-

BOOTS/C2

MORENO was called "Clark Gable of Philippine movies," although he had better looks.
JOHNNY VILLENA

RAMIREZ as "Bernardo Carpio," with Alicia Vergel, who became his wife

Cesar and his prodigal son

By Julie Fe Navarro
Contributor

ACTION star Ace Vergel, son of the late Alicia Vergel and Cesar Ramirez, who died last Thursday *(related story on page C2)*, was sweet and charming when he promised this writer an exclusive

CESAR/ C2

VARGAS "had guts"

'Pinggoy,' artist and athlete

By Jocelyn T. Valle
Contributor

THERE is no wake for Vic Vargas but his family will always remember him as the athletic and artistically gifted "Pinggoy."

"He could go on with his judo training although he had not been able to sleep the night before," recalled a cousin and close friend of the late actor. "He really had guts and fighting spirit.

"But Pinggoy was also reckless," added the cousin, who did not want to be identified.

He recalled that Vargas (real name, Jose Ma. Marfori Asuncion) was a three-time national judo champion at the age of 17, and was an instructor on his own TV

PINGGOY/ C2

DE MESA

Michael dreams of Boracay

/C7

DID YOU KNOW...

Funny Parañaque Mayor **Joey Marquez** went malling at the Alabang Town Center in Muntinlupa City last Saturday afternoon, with **Yeoj, Winwin, VJ** and **Em-Em**, his children with estranged wife **Alma Moreno**. No bodyguard, *alalay* or nanny was seen with them. Instead, they were accompanied by talent manager **Douglas Quijano**.

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Ramirez lived a life of prayer, says daughter

By Marinel R. Cruz

"My father lived a life of prayer and love. He devoted his life to taking care of his children and serving his God."

Actress Beverly Vergel, daughter of Cesar Ramirez, was so grief-stricken she still could not believe her father was gone.

"He had no vices," she told INQUIRER Entertainment last Saturday afternoon. "He had only been hospitalized twice in his whole life. The first time was two years ago because of a prostate gland operation, and the second time was last Tuesday."

Cesar (real name, Arlen Quindoy Aguilar) died at 6:30 a.m. at the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City. He was 78. He had been in a coma since July 17, his daughter said.

His remains will be cremated on July 29 after the 1 p.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

Beverly said her father had been battling Parkinson's disease since he returned from the United States two years ago. Ramirez lived in the US since 1975.

"He could hardly move his body and was in a wheelchair," his daughter recalled. "Barely a year later, he was able to walk unaided."

Ramirez had lived in a condominium unit in San Juan, with a house help. He was taken to the hospital Tuesday night after his helper said the former actor refused to eat and had become weak.

BEVERLY Vergel

"The doctors said he was already partly paralyzed," said Beverly. "He could not move his arms and upper body. They tried pinching his arms but he did not respond."

Ramirez was married to dramatic actress Alicia Vergel, with whom he has two children, Beverly and Ace Vergel (*related story, C1*).

He was earlier known for his portrayal as the legendary Filipino folk hero Bernardo Carpio, in the movie of the same name. His looks and physique gave him an edge over other contenders for the role.

He played swashbuckler roles in "Tres Muskiteros," "Espada," "El Indio" and "Tress Ojos." He also played Tarzan roles in movies like "Diwani," "Ukala" and "Dumagit," all showing off his well-muscled body.

RAMIREZ, in Gerry de Leon's "Huwag Mo Akong Limutin," with Aura Aurea, 1960

CCP ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PHILIPPINE ARTS

Orson Welles' Oscar for 'Citizen Kane' up for auction

NEW YORK—It started with "Rosebud," and ended in universal acclaim for Orson Welles, whose Oscar for best screenplay for "Citizen Kane" is the star attraction in an entertainment memorabilia sale next week.

Welles' Oscar trophy from the 1941 film, regarded by many as the best movie ever made, is expected to fetch between $300,000 and $400,000 when it goes under the gavel on July 25, Christie's auction house said on Friday.

Welles, only 25 years old when he made the classic, was nominated for four Academy Awards for "Citizen Kane," including Best Actor, Best Director, Best Picture and Best Screenplay, which he shared credit with Herman Mankiewicz.

He won the Oscar only for his writing.

The film opens with dying newspaper magnate Charles Foster Kane whispering "Rosebud," during his last moments.

That word became the focal point for the film, which chronicles his life with a sweeping grandeur and dramatic technique that were startling at the time.

"Citizen Kane" was the top-ranked movie on the American Film Institute's "Greatest American Movies of All Time" list.

Reuters

Stars came out in droves for Beauty Central opening

JUST when people think his "Ganda" campaign, featuring movie queen Gloria Romero, would be his biggest campaign this year, businessman and hairdresser to the stars Ricky Reyes recently opened his Beauty Central, a one-stop-shop health and beauty destination, with luminaries from show biz, politics and social circles.

Beauty Central, which Ricky transformed from an old warehouse on top of Greenlanes Bowling Arcade in the Greenhills Shopping Center into a beauty haven, opened with at least 800 guests.

Cutting the ribbon were Mother Ricky's closest friends—presidential daughter Luli Macapagal-Arroyo, former President Fidel Ramos, Mrs. Ming Ramos, Ethel S. Timbol, San Juan First Lady Guia Gomez, Vice President Teofisto Guingona's wife Mrs. Ruth Guingona, GMA 7 top honcho Wilma Galvante, businesswoman Baby Puyat, and Rex Drilon, chief operating officer of the Ortigas and Co. Ltd. Partnership.

Also there were Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando, Mrs. Cora Abalos, and Mrs. Menchie Abalos of Mandaluyong, stars Dina Bonnevie, Lani Mercado, Princess Punzalan, Rachel and Lani Lobangco, Sherwin Ordoñez, Karen de los Reyes and Tricia Roman; beauty queen-actresses Evangeline Pascual and Jean Saburit, singer Dulce, fashion designers Frederick Peralta, Eddie Baddeo and Arielle Agasang.

Beauty Central is a 2,500-sq.m. facility that offers a complete line of services for men and women. It has the Comfort Zone hair spa; Hairwear by Arnelli, a wig center owned by Arnell Ignacio; Let's Face It Facial Center; Elvie's by Elvie Pineda skin care center; HBC health and beauty store; and Femme Fatale for women's hygiene and health effects.

Plastic Surgery Associates, the first and the biggest group of board-certified plastic surgeons, has a clinic at Beauty Central.

Fourteen doctors' clinics comprise Health Lane.

Completing Beauty Central are Amrita Coffee Shop, Tamayo's Weddings Center, Axcesoria, Peppermint Tree for toiletry and bath needs, Travel Pros travel agency, and Predictions, a fortune-telling center.

SHOW TIME

Cesar and his prodigal son

From page C1

interview and photo op with his dad, who was under his care.

"It was in 1973 when I learned that my dad's family in the United States wanted to put him in an institution for the aged," Ace told this writer, during the press conference for his new movie, "Masamang Ugat." "*Ayoko ng ganoon. Hindi naman ganooon and kultura natin. Matagal nang nawalay sa akin ang* dad *ko. Mga* 14 years *kaming hindi nagkita*. I decided to visit him in 1987. At that time, my marriage to my actress/model wife, Maya de la Cuesta, had not been annulled. Maya and I went to Daly City. We even had the wrong address. It took us two weeks to find my dad. We decided to bring him back to the Philippines."

This conversation took place about a month ago. Contrary to his evil role in "Masamang Ugat," Ace was a good son in real life, harboring no resentment against his dad who had left him many years ago to seek the proverbial greener pastures in America. The feisty Alicia Vergel smothered him with motherly love, but it was never enough for the young Ace who always found an excuse to run away from his mother and be with his father.

"*Hindi ko na matandaan kung ilang ulit akong umalis sa nanay ko at nagpunta sa tatay ko*," said Ace. "*Basta ang alam ko, maraming beses kong ginawa iyon. Tuwing aalis ako, ang gagawin ng nanay ko, kukunin ako sa tatay ko. Sa bandang huli, nagsawa na rin siya siguro at pinabayaan na ako.*"

He talked lovingly of his father, who had to use a cane to be able to walk steadily. "*Pero mahusay pa naman ang pag-iisip at maayos pa siyang nakakapagsalita. Minsan nga, ibinili ko siya ng* golf cart *kasi gusto raw niyang mamasyal sa* Luneta. *Isipin mo iyon, ang gusto niya'y mamamasyal sa* Luneta! *Pero nang nabili ko na ang* golf cart, *ayaw na niyang lumabas*, ."

Ace laughed at his own disappointment.

The interview with his dad that Ace had promised never materialized. A month and two press conferences later, Ace was profuse with apologies. He knew I had been calling his house so often that I was already on a first-name basis with the house help. He never answered the almost a dozen text messages sent to his cell phone.

"Sorry *talaga, Tita, marami lang talaga akong problema*," Ace said with a sweet smile when we met again. "*Alam mo naman iyon, hindi ba?*"

I didn't tell him I really didn't know what problems were hounding him. I wanted a story about a devoted, loving son. I got it, even if I did not get to interview his father.

ACE VERGEL, who kept on going back to his father

'Pinggoy,' artist and athlete

From page C1

program on Channel 7 in the '60s.

Vargas died Saturday afternoon, 15 days after he suffered a stroke and lapsed into a coma in the intensive care unit (ICU) of the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Pasay City.

People who grew up watching the actor's movies may recall his attractive, manly looks, but his cousin related that Vargas was an ugly duckling as a child. "*Naging* macho *na lang siya* later on," said the cousin.

As for the actor's full lips, "I bit them when we were kids," the cousin said with a grin.

Vargas got into the movies on a whim, according to the cousin. "He didn't want to be an actor. One day, we were with our friends at Nena's Bibingka (near the Sampaguita Pictures compound in Quezon City) and we dared Pinggoy to accept the contract Sampaguita was offering him."

Vargas did. In 1962, he was introduced in "Diegong Tabak" opposite dramatic actress Lolita Rodriguez. "For his first movie, starring role *na agad*," the cousin said with pride.

An aunt of the late actor, who's a nun and who doesn't want to be identified, too, remembered that the whole family had a meeting before letting their Pinggoy join show business.

After the success of his first movie, which showed off his buffed body, Vargas went on to carve a name for himself as an action star who could also do drama and comedy. His second movie, where he played a Pinoy Tarzan, opposite Dolphy's flimsy Tansan, was a spoof of the western jungle lord.

He played serious roles in "Walang Takot sa Patalim," "Kumander Judo," "From Tokyo with Love," "Mga Kanyon ng Corregidor," "Paratrooper Squadron," "Padre Valiente," "Ang Tigre at ang Diablo," "Daluyong at Habagat," "Banta ng Kahapon," "Laruang Apoy," "Cobra, Lawin at Dragon" and "Hold-up."

He was also in sex comedies like "Pito'ng Asawa Ko," "Bawal: Asawa Mo, Asawa Ko," "Babaing Hiwalay sa Asawa," "Sino'ng Kapiling? Sino'ng Kasiping" and Ishmael Bernal's "Pagdating sa Dulo," which was chosen as one of the best films of the '70s.

He personified the quintessential Filipino henpecked husband, Andres de Saya, in several movies, with beauty queen-turned-actress Gloria Diaz as the fierce housewife.

Diaz is said to have been a former girlfriend of Vargas.

He won the best actor award for his performance in Bernal's "El Vibora" in the 7th Manila Film Festival in 1972, and an Urian nomination for Lino Brocka's "In This Corner" in 1982.

"But Pinggoy's real artistic talent lay in the visual arts," noted his cousin. "He was an Architecture graduate of the University of Santo Tomas but he didn't take formal lessons in painting."

Seventeen Vargas art works are found at Club Noah in Palawan, where the actor lived between 1995 and 2000. Club Noah's Japanese owner is his friend, according to his wife, Rosanna Zamora.

DJ Manolet Dario does Singapore

AFTER its postponement last May, "ZoukOut Singapore Nokia Remix" is back on July 25-26, with an adrenaline-pumping line-up of bands and supernova DJs.

Singled out as South East Asia's definitive outdoor dance music festival, it promises a power-packed weekend for all to loosen up, melt down and party. The two-night magical clubbing experience will include a live outdoor concert, with three top international bands on the first night and a dusk-till-dawn party in four arenas.

First outdoor day is "In-Concert" on July 25, 8 p.m. till 3 a.m. Second day is "Dusk To Dawn Non-Stop Dance Music," July 26, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

The Global Underground Arena will feature progressive sounds. Helming the decks are Sasha, James Lavelle, James Zabiela, Phil K, and the Zouk resident DJs, Aldrin and DJ B.

The Velvet Underground Arena will have deep soulful house, jazz, Afro, Brazilian, funk and soul. Kenny Dope, Kerri Chandler and Bugz in the Attic take the lead with Velvet Underground residents Jeremy Boon and Brendon P.

The Regional Arena features the many diverse sounds of electronica, with DJs from the region, including Manolet Dario from Manila, and those from Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Melbourne, Taipei, Tokyo and Singapore. The Mambo Jambo Arena is for die-hard mambo fans.

DARIO

Boots: He was 'heartthrob' to the end

From page C1

ond wife Sally Richardson and children Boots, Vicky, Nonoy, Monching, Alvin, Nathalie, Neal, Oca, Liz and Joannie.

In the '50s, Moreno played many playboy roles, opposite movie goddesses like Tita Duran, Carmen Rosales, Paraluman and Susan Roces, earning him the title the "nation's boyfriend."

He first appeared in "Guerilyera" with Carmen Rosales in 1946, and was launched as a dramatic actor in "Unang Pag-Ibig," opposite Tita Duran. He was last seen in the Nora Aunor-Cocoy Laurel starrer "Lollipops and Roses" in 1975.

ANSON-ROA

Hits and misses

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HITS and misses at the ongoing Sangandaan Festival at the CCP:

We hear that the stand-up comedy show, "Tongue-in-a-Mood Mo Rin" (July 13, Main Theater) got a good house, as did "Kung Hindi Man," an evening of *kundiman* that was enjoyed by young viewers. "Lagi Kitang Mamahalin" (July 11 and 12, Main Theater) was similarly popular with audiences.

"The Romance of Magno Rubio," ongoing at Tanghalang Batute, has added performances to accommodate more viewers. The forum on Hollywood and Filipino films (July 16, Dreamtheater) was informative, but the exhibit, "Holly-Pinoy" (ongoing at the Little Theater Lobby) was disappointingly thin and neither here nor there.

Events to watch out for: The ongoing Fil-Am filmfest Dreamtheater. "Oraciones" at the Little Theater on July 25, 26 and 27. "Mga Awit ng Puso: Filipino Artists Series 1" at the Little Theater on July 29, and **Mars Ravelo**'s "Darna" at the Main Theater on July 31.

Remaining Fil-Am filmfest screenings:

July 21, "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino" and "Tunay na Ina."

July 22, "Tatlo, Dalawa, Isa" by **Lino Brocka**.

July 23, "Dollar a Day, 10¢ a Dance" and **Laurice Guillen**'s "American Adobo."

July 24, "The Real Glory," "Back to Bataan," "Dollar a Day, 10¢ a Dance" and "American Guerilla in the Philippines."

July 25, "Anak Dalita," "Sana Maulit Muli," "The Big Broadcast" and "Minsa'y Isang Gamu-Gamo." Call 832-1125.

Spotlight on Hilary Duff

"LIZZIE Maguire" is one of the most popular series on the Disney Channel, and has made a teen star of its young lead, **Hilary Duff**. After years of TV stardom, it's time for Hilary to move on to a bigger medium and establish herself as a film luminary by way of the light, bright "The Lizzie Maguire Movie."

Some industry observers believe that Hilary could soon give **Britney Spears** some serious competition. A Kids' Choice Award Winner and one of E's "Sizzlin' 16," Hilary is also a singing sensation.

The "Lizzie Maguire" soundtrack, which features her debut single, "I Can't Wait," has been certified gold, and ranks among the top 10 soundtracks in America. "I Can't Wait' was also a breakthrough hit on Radio Disney.

Playing two characters in her movie—Lizzie and her look-alike, the famous Italian pop star Isabella—allowed Hilary to expand her performance range. Filming in Rome also gave the teen star a chance to catch up on her homework, since she was studying Roman history in school. She felt privileged to see everything in her history books up close.

"The Lizzie Maguire Movie" is a landmark production for Hilary, because it dramatizes the transition of her signature character, from adolescent to young woman. When the TV show started four years ago, she was just a girl; now, she's turning young men's heads.

In the movie, Lizzie grows up a lot. Spending time away from her family makes her realize how much she misses and needs them. And her relationship with Gordo strengthens and deepens.

STAR of a bigger screen now, Hilary Duff jumps from TV to movies.

Nadal goes solo

ANNA Katrina "Kitchie" Nadal, former lead singer of Mojofly, is now a solo artist. Her signature song, "Deliverance," will be included in her first solo album. She has also been doing shows in Tacloban, Baguio, Dagupan and Cebu with Parokya ni Edgar, Barbie's Cradle, Nina and Salbakuta.

On July 25 and 26, she'll be singing in Bacolod and Iloilo, again with Barbie's Cradle. Call 0917-500-1351.

'Nightingale'

ON AUG. 1, **Lani Misalucha** headlines the benefit show, "An Evening with the Nightingale," at the AFP Theater. Beneficiary is the educational fund for the children of deceased members of PMA of Makatao Class 1989. Call 688-4404.

'Honk'

MEET the cast of the Manila production of the musical, "Honk! The Ugly Duckling":

Ugly is played by **Franco Laurel** and **Carlo Orosa**. Ida—**Agot Isidro** and **Carla Martinez**. The Cat—**Tonipet Gaba** and **Noel Rayos**. Lowbutt/Grace/Dot—**Nanette Inventor** and **Sheila Francisco**.

Penny—**Lana Jalosjos**. Maureen—**Mylene Evangelista** and **Mayen Bustamante**. Bullfrog—**Lorenz Martinez** and **Rycharde Everly**. Drake/Graylag—**Bonggoy Manahan** and **John Mulhall**. Queen—**Sweet Plantado** and **Annaliza Zialcita**.

The other cast members are **Paolo Valenciano, Kyla Rivera, Red Concepcion, Bea Garcia, Gloria Sicam, Chevy Mercado, Topper Fabregas, Manman Angsico, Jennie Nuyda, Alvin John de la Peña**, and **Pheona Barranda-Paras**.

Don Moen makes his way to the Philippines again

MOEN

SHOW TIME

THE HIT Gospel song "God Will Make a Way" was born out of a personal tragedy for Christian artist Don Moen.

His wife's nephew, who was barely nine, died in a car accident and the whole family felt a tremendous sense of loss. Moen was inspired by a verse from Isaiah 43 ("I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert").

"When I wrote this song, I didn't really feel compelled to write it, but I wanted to know what to say to ease the pain of a lost loved one, and my first response was to write a song," says Moen. He did not expect that people would be touched by his song, which has become a source of inspiration for those who have seemed to have lost hope.

Moen initially pursued a career in doing commercial jingles for radio and television. "One night (in 1981)," he recalled, "I just had this very strong impression to refer to the Bible, Psalms 40:3, which goes like this, 'I have put a new song in your mouth. The song of praise to your God. Many will see it and fear and put their trust in the Lord.'"

There was no turning back. As a musician for Terry Law ministries, he played the guitar, trombone and violin. For 10 years, he handled the group's musical productions and arrangements.

In 1984, he was asked to be the worship leader for Hosannah! Music's live recording which came to be known as "Give Thanks." The album, now nearing platinum status, with more than 900,000 copies sold, was one of Integrity Music's most popular recordings.

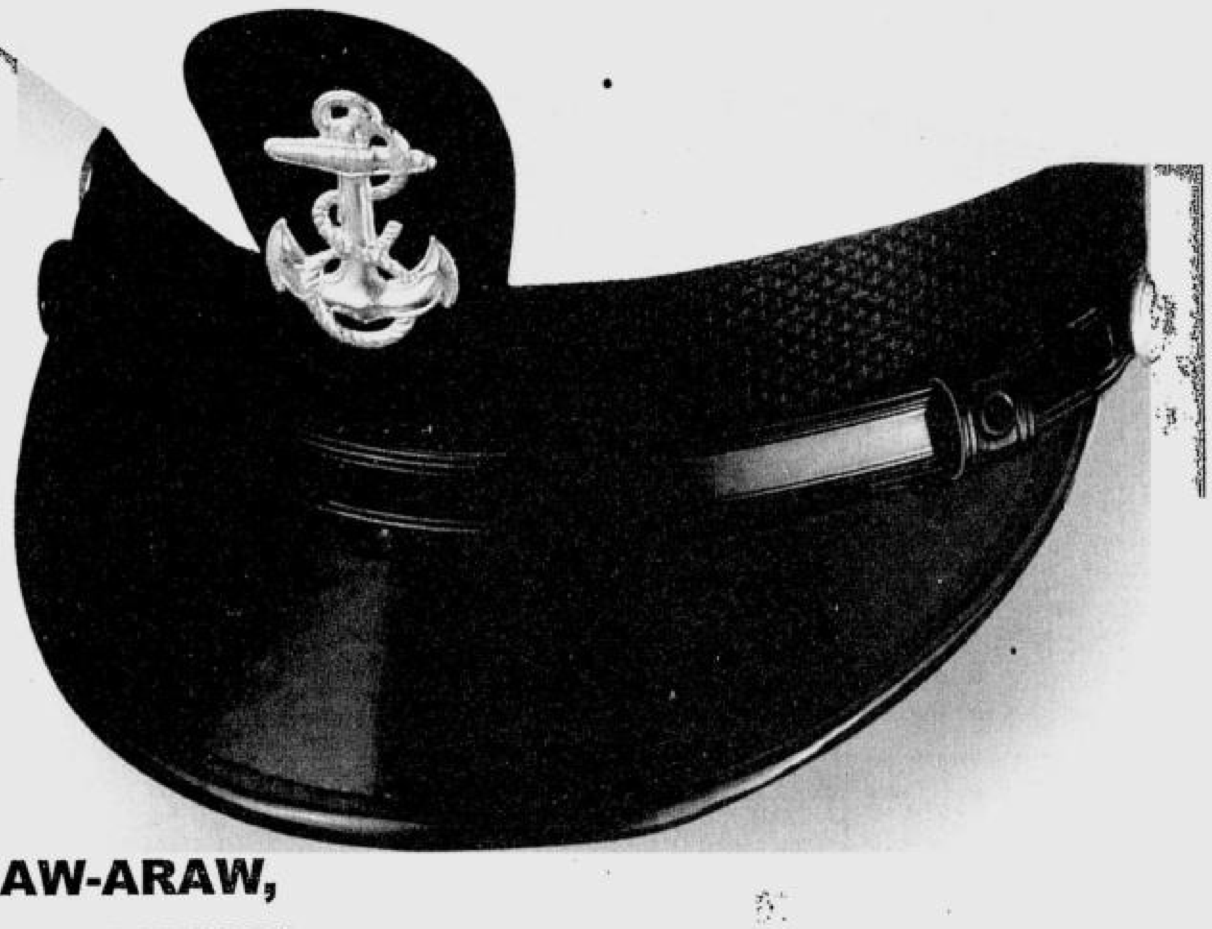
Over the years, Moen has recorded 17 albums, including 3 musicals and an all-Spanish album, achieving sales of an impressive 5 million copies. From these best-selling albums came some of the songs used in churches and worship services: "Shout to the Lord," "Blessed be the Name of the Lord" and "Celebrate Jesus Celebrate," among others.

He won the 1994 Gospel Music Association Dove Award for best musical for "God with Us."

Moen is a devoted husband to Laura, his wife of 30 years, and father to five children.

This year, he appeared in Billboard magazine due to the growing popularity of worship music.

DON MOEN/C5



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1 LIZZIE MCGUIRE	1 LIZZIE MCGUIRE	ArtFilm 1 MIRANDA (Exclusive) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 TERMINATOR 3 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:40	THX 1 TERMINATOR 3
2 TERMINATOR 3	2 THE BANGKOK HAUNTED	2 DOWN WITH LOVE 11:35, 1:45, 3:55, 6:05, 8:15	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 DOWN WITH LOVE 12:55, 3:00, 5:05, 7:10, 9:15, 11:20	2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 DEATHWATCH	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 TERMINATOR 3 10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30		GUARANTEED SEATS 3 IMPOSTOR 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	3 DOWN WITH LOVE
4 DOWN WITH LOVE	4 JACKASS	LANI MISALUCHA... LOVING YOU July 25 & 26 - 9pm	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30	CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE
	5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 LIZZIE MCGUIRE 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10, 11:15	5 IMPOSTOR
	6 DOWN WITH LOVE			
	7 IMPOSTOR			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Reserve your seats by texting **SURESEATS GB3** or **SURESEATS G4** and send to 2333.
Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3
3 (DTS)	JACKASS THE MOVIE
4 GOLD (DTS-ES)	DOWN WITH LOVE
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	IMPOSTOR
8	MASAMANG UGAT
9	DEATH WATCH
10	BANGKOK HAUNTED

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA ①②&③
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	MASAMANG UGAT
2	TERMINATOR-3
3	BIGLANG LIKO

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	DOWN WITH LOVE
2	BANGKOK HAUNTED
3	BIGLANG LIKO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	TERMINATOR-3
5	MASAMANG UGAT

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	TERMINATOR-3
3	TUKAAN
4	MASAMANG UGAT
5	LIZZIE MCQUIRE
6	DOWN WITH LOVE

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	DUMB AND DUMBERER

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 8934225, 8922503

TERMINATOR-3

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	THE HUNTED
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	
3	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	HAYOP SA MAGDAMAG
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	MASAMANG UGAT
4	BANGKOK HAUNTED
5	IMPOSTOR
6	JACKASS THE MOVIE
7 (DTS)	DOWN WITH LOVE
8 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3
9 (DOLBY)	LIZZIE MCGUIRE

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	MASAMANG UGAT
3	MASAMANG UGAT
4 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3
5	DOWN WITH LOVE
6 (DOLBY)	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
7 (DTS)	TERMINATOR-3
8	BABAE SA VIP ROOM
9	THE HUNTED

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1	DOWN WITH LOVE
2 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3
3 (DTS)	MASAMANG UGAT
4 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
5	LIZZIE MCGUIRE

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	MASAMANG UGAT
2	DOWN WITH LOVE
3 (DTS)	TERMINATOR-3
4	BANGKOK HAUNTED
5 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	MASAMANG UGAT

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	TERMINATOR-3

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	JAILBIRD
Lords	BETTER THAN SEX
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	DOWN WITH LOVE
3	DEATH WATCH
4	MASAMANG UGAT

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
2	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3	BANGKOK HAUNTED
4	MASAMANG UGAT
5	DOWN WITH LOVE

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	A MAN APART
2	KAPIT BAHAY

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1	JACKASS THE MOVIE
2	MASAMANG UGAT
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINATOR 3
4 (SDDS)	BANGKOK HAUNTED
5 (DTS)	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6	DOWN WITH LOVE
7	IMPOSTOR

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1	CLOSED
2	CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0926

1	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
2	MASAMANG UGAT
3 (DTS)	TERMINATOR-3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	DOWN WITH LOVE
2 (DTS)	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
4	MASAMANG UGAT

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	DOWN WITH LOVE
2 (DOLBY)	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 (DTS)	TERMINATOR-3
4	MASAMANG UGAT

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	DARKNESS FALLS
2	HOW TO LOST A GUYS IN 10 DAYS
3 (DOLBY)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	DUMB AND DUMBERER
2	28 DAYS LATER
3 (DOLBY)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2 (DTS)	DUMB AND DUMBERER
3	MUNTING TINIG

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	MASAMANG UGAT
2	BIGLANG LIKO
3 (DTS)	HINOG SA PILIT
4	TUKAAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
2	MASAMANG UGAT
3 (DTS)	DOWN WITH LOVE
4	DUMB AND DUMBERER
5	LIZZIE MCGUIRE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	DOWN WITH LOVE
3	TAMPISAW

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	DOWN WITH LOVE
3	MASAMANG UGAT

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
2	28 DAYS LATER
3 (DTS)	DARKNESS FALLS
4 (DOLBY)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	DUMB AND DUMBERER
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3	28 DAYS LATER
4	THE HUNTED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-6001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	TERMINATOR-3
2	28 DAYS LATER
3 (DTS ES)	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4	MASAMANG UGAT

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1	MASAMANG UGAT
2	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 (DOLBY)	THE HUNTED
4 (DTS)	TERMINATOR-3

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

BANGKOK HAUNTED
NOW SHOWING

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1	THE HUNTED
2	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	MASAMANG UGAT
7	JACKASS
8	DOWN WITH LOVE

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
2	IMPOSTOR
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	MASAMANG UGAT
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	JACKASS
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
8	DOWN WITH LOVE
9	BANGKOK HAUNTED
10	DEATH WATCH

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	DEATH WATCH
2	JACKASS
3	28 DAYS LATER
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	MASAMANG UGAT
6	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
7	BANGKOK HAUNTED
8	DOWN WITH LOVE
9	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
10	TUKAAN
11	THE HUNTED
12	TERMINATOR 3

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3	DOWN WITH LOVE
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	DEATH WATCH
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	IMPOSTOR
8	THE HUNTED
9	BANGKOK HAUNTED
10	DUMB & DUMBERER
11	JACKASS
12	MASAMANG UGAT

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	HULK
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5	DOWN WITH LOVE
6	DEATH WATCH
7	THE HUNTED
8	IMPOSTOR
9	MASAMANG UGAT
10	TERMINATOR 3
11	JACKASS
12	BANGKOK HAUNTED

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	IMPOSTOR
2	BANGKOK HAUNTED
3	MASAMANG UGAT
4	JACKASS
5	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6	DOWN WITH LOVE
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
8	TERMINATOR 3

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	DOWN WITH LOVE
2	JACKASS
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6	DEATH WATCH
7	MASAMANG UGAT
8	IMPOSTOR
9	TERMINATOR 3
10	BANGKOK HAUNTED

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3	THE HUNTED
4	DANCER IN THE DARK
5	28 DAYS LATER
6	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
7	WILLARD
8	TERMINATOR 3

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
2	RESERVED
3	TUMITIBOK, KUMIKIROT
4	THE HUNTED
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	RESERVED
8	REAL CANCUN

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3	28 DAYS LATER
4	DUMB & DUMBERER
5	MASAMANG UGAT
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	MASAMANG UGAT
2	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	DOWN WITH LOVE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	BANGKOK HAUNTED
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4	MASAMANG UGAT

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	DANCER IN THE DARK
3	CONFESSION OF A DANGEROUS MINDS
4	THE HUNTED
5	28 DAYS LATER
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

1	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
2	MASAMANG UGAT
3	DOWN WITH LOVE
4	TERMINATOR 3

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
659-2884

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	REAL CANCUN
3	ADAPTATION
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1	TERMINATOR 3 11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END
2	DOWN WITH LOVE 12:10 FS/12:35 MF/2:40/4:45/6:50/8:55/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate : P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD
CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls
call-a-movie: 536- 7812
NOW SHOWING

Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

THX	TERMINATOR 3 12:10 MF, 3:00, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30 LMF, 11:20 END
2	DOWN WITH LOVE
3	BANGKOK HAUNTED
4	IMPOSTOR
5	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
8	JACKASS
9	MASAMANG UGAT
10	DEATH WATCH

MATINEE PRICE: P90 THX cinema / P75 level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	JACKASS
3	BANGKOK HAUNTED
4	IMPOSTOR
5	MASAMANG UGAT
6	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
7	DOWN WITH LOVE

Metro East - Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	JACKASS
3	IMPOSTOR
4	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5	DOWN WITH LOVE
6	BANGKOK HAUNTED
7	MASAMANG UGAT
8	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	JACKASS
3	DEATH WATCH
4	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5	DOWN WITH LOVE
6	BANGKOK HAUNTED
7	MASAMANG UGAT
8	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Malabon Citisquare
288-0985 / 288-2575

1	DOWN WITH LOVE
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4	MASAMANG UGAT

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp.
(045)875-1927
(045)961-5270

1	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
2	28 DAYS LATER
3	DUMB & DUMBERER
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
5	MASAMANG UGAT
6	TERMINATOR 3

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	DOWN WITH LOVE
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5	MASAMANG UGAT
6	JACKASS

Sta. Rosa Laguna
(049)837-0907

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	DOWN WITH LOVE
3	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4	MASAMANG UGAT
5	DUMB & DUMBERER

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	THE HOURS
3	THE GURU
4	DUMB & DUMBERER
5	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	PIGLETS BIG MOVIE
3	THE HUNTED
4	CHARLIES ANGELS
5	REAL CANCUN
6	TUMITIBOK..KUMIKIROT

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Don Moen...

From page C3

"Only recently has praise and worship come to be recognized as a very significant category," says Moen, who has performed in Australia, Great Britain, Latin America and South East Asia.

Over the years, he has traveled extensively around the Philippines bringing God's music. His last Philippine tour in 2001, produced by Maxi-Media, had eight sold-out performances.

"God has blessed my music in the Philippines, more than any country in the world," says the singer. "I'm honored and humbled by it."

Praise Inc. recently released his latest album, "God Will Make a Way: The Best of Don Moen."

Don Moen and his worship team will perform at the Araneta Coliseum in a concert with the same title on July 25 and 26 and Aug. 1. They will also perform at the University of St. La Salle Gym in Bacolod City on July 27; Cebu Coliseum, July 30; Freedom Ring Amphitheater, Clark Field, Pampanga, Aug. 2; and at the Dagupan Astrodome, Aug. 3.

"God Will Make A Way: Don Moen Philippine Tour 2003" is a production of Maxi-Media International. Tickets for P100, P200, P400 and P600 (plus 3-percent ticketron charge) are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets in all SM department store branches in Manila (911-5555), Cebu and Pampanga, and Maxi-Media (551-8999 and 551-7777).

DID YOU KNOW...

Bong Revilla and **Lani Mercado**'s sons **Bryan** and **Jolo** and daughter **Inah** also went malling at the Alabang Town Center last Sunday, without any chaperones at all. They live in the nearby Ayala Alabang rich man's village, a mere two-minute drive away from the mall. Also seen at ATC that same day were filmmaker **Carlitos Siguion-Reyna**, his writer wife **Bibeth Orteza** and their daughter **Aya**. The brainy family went to Powerbooks.

ARANETA CENTER ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	JACKASS THE MOVIE
Ali 2	MASAMANG UGAT
Ali 3	TERMINATOR 3
Ali 4	BANGKOK HAUNTED
Ali 5	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
Ali 6	DOWN WITH LOVE
Ali 7	IMPOSTOR

ARANETA COLISEUM

JULY 24	UAAP GAMES
JULY 25	DON MOEN CONCERT
JUL 26	DON MOEN CONCERT
JULY 31	UAAP GAMES
AUG 01	DON MOEN CONCERT
AUG 02	JUST ONCE...GREATEST HITS
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	UNFAITHFUL CUNCUBINE/KANA 2
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TERMINATOR 3
B	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DUMB & DUMBERER
CINEMA-2	HUNTED
CINEMA-3	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINATTOR 3
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
CINEMA-6	TUKAAN
CINEMA-7	HOT SPOT
CINEMA-8	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	DOWN WITH LOVE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINATTOR 3
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
CINEMA-12	JACKASS
CINEMA-14	IMPOSTOR
CINEMA-15	BANGKOK HANUTED
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	CHARLIE S ANGELS 2
CINEMA 2	DARKNESS FALLS
CINEMA 3	A MAN APART
CINEMA 4	28 DAYS LATER
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

JACKASS R18 1:40,3:25, 5:10, 6:55, 8:45	LIZZIE MCGUIRE GP 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	DOWN WITH LOVE PG13 1:30,3:40,5:50, 8:00,10:10
IMPOSTOR PG13 1:30,3:35,5:40, 7:45,9:50	BANGKOK HAUNTED R13 1:20,4:00, 6:40,9:30	TERMINATOR: RISE OF THE MACHINES PG13 12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:00

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	TERMINATOR 3 11:35, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40 PG13
CINEMA 2	THE LIZZIE McGUIRE MOVIE 11:50, 2:05, 4:20, 6:35, 8:50 GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

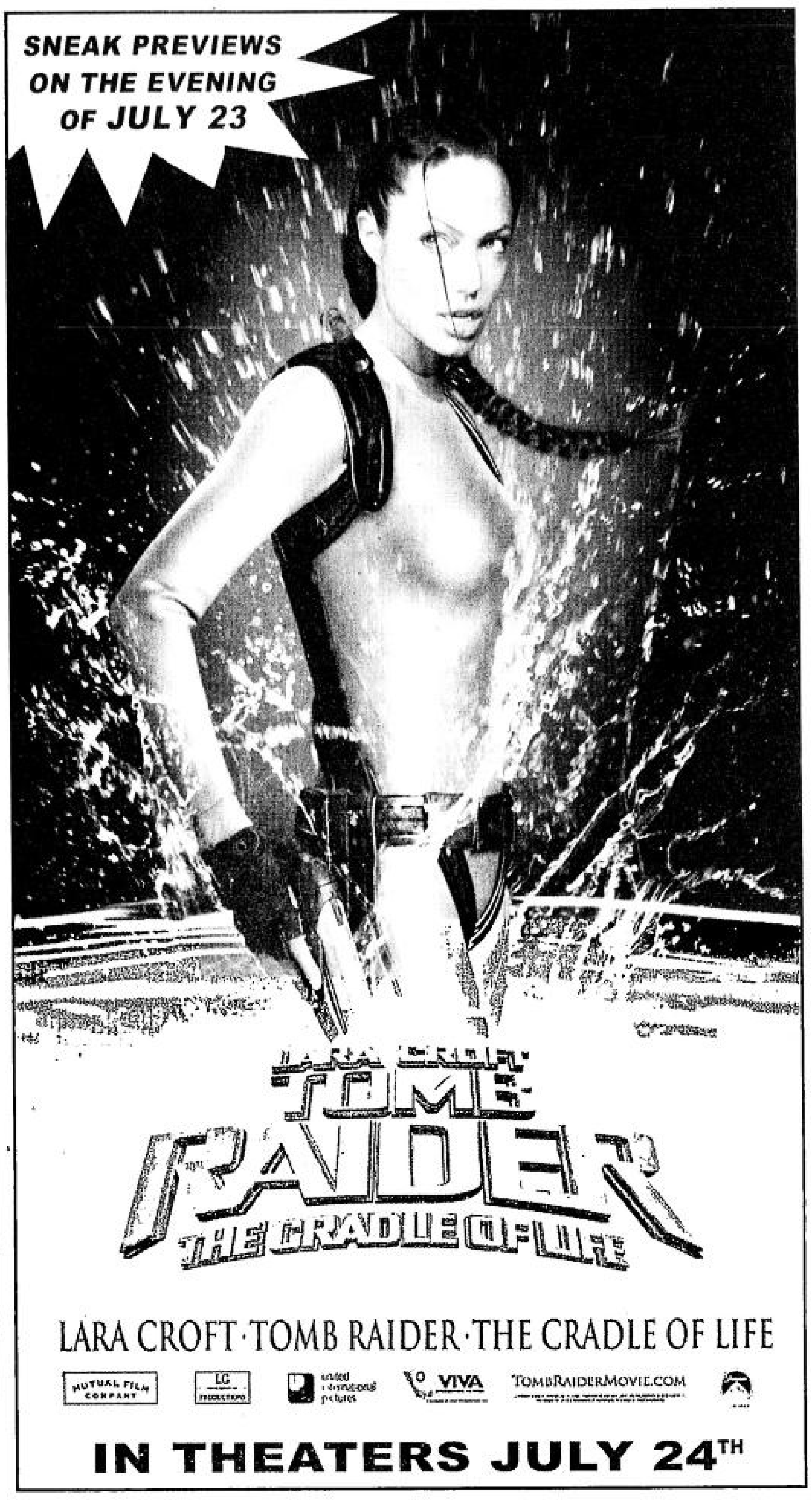
MUSIC MUSEUM

JULY 25 2003	"JOURNEY" (DESSA / RANNIE RAYMUNDO)	8:30PM
AUG 8-9 & 15-16 2003	GARY V. HITS MUSIC MUSEUM	9:00PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13
Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
Renée Zellweger
Ewan McGregor
DOWN WITH LOVE
NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
PAGSASAMANG BIGATIN...
AKSYONG TIGASIN...
PELIKULANG DI DAPAT PALAMPASIN!
ACE VERGEL
VICTOR NERI
MIKEY ARROYO
MAUI TAYLOR
and
EDDIE GARCIA
Masamang Ugat
Special participation:
EMILIO GARCIA
Introducing: GWEN GARCI
DIRECTED BY WILFREDO MILAN DGPI
VIVA
NOW SHOWING


SNEAK PREVIEWS ON THE EVENING OF JULY 23
LARA CROFT TOMB RAIDER THE CRADLE OF LIFE
LARA CROFT·TOMB RAIDER·THE CRADLE OF LIFE
MUTUAL FILM COMPANY
LC
united international pictures
VIVA
TOMBRAIDERMOVIE.COM
IN THEATERS JULY 24TH

AYALA CINEMAS
NOW SHOWING ONLY AT ArtFilm
DARING. AWARD-WINNING. EXTRAORDINARY
A fresh and uniquely quirky romance redolent of a more indulgent cinema of yesteryear.
CHRISTINA RICCI is
MIRANDA
also starring
KYLE McCLACHLAN, JOHN SIMM & JOHN HURT
A small-town librarian (John Simm) falls head-over-heels with a beautiful stranger (Cristina Ricci). She is secretly enmeshed in a darkly complex web of intrigue and deceit between her con artist-mentor (John Hurt) and a sleazy millionaire (Kyle MacLachlan). Seeking solace in the bright albeit naive embrace of her loopy new lover, but it's anybody's guess whether they'll emerge unscathed from this high-stakes game.
Miranda was screened at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival.
MTRCB Rating:
Restricted 18 (R-18)
NOKIA
Solar FILMS INC.
INQUIRER

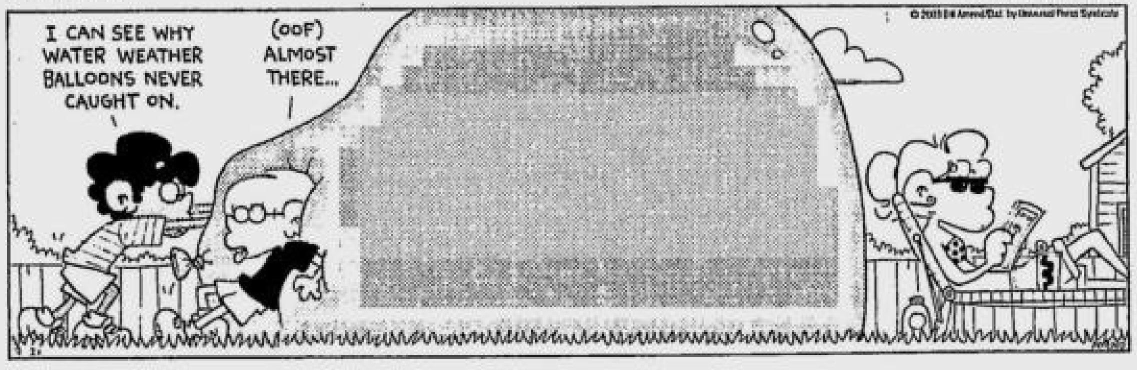
MIRANDA
MARTSEXYDANGEROUS

3 DAYS TO GO
Hurry! Buy your tickets in advance at the Glorietta 4 & Greenbelt 3 ticket booths.
Or reserve your seats now by logging on to www.sureseats.com for web reservation.
For more information, pls. call 752-7880 or 82 (Glorietta 4) or 757-3860 to 62 (Greenbelt 3)
OPENS JULY 24 AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS
AYALA CINEMAS
TOMB RAIDER
united international pictures
TOMBRAIDERMOVIE.COM
VIVA

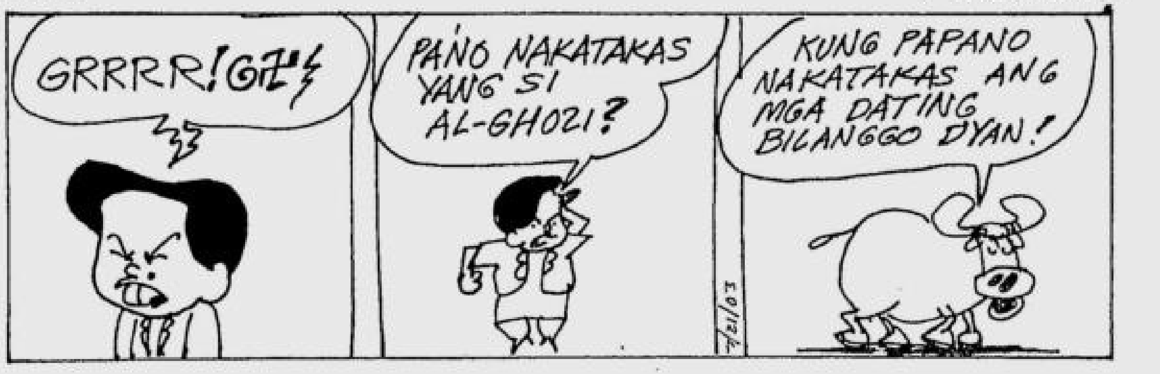
SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENINGS
AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT 1 & 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
JULY 23 (Wednesday)
HURRY! BUY YOUR TICKETS IN ADAVNCE AT THE GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS TICKETBOOTH.
OR BY LOGGING ON TO www.sureseats.com FOR WEB RESERVATION.
REGULAR RUN BEGINS JULY 24 (THURSDAY)
EXPERIENCE IT BEST AT AYALA CINEMAS

TOMB RAIDER THE CRADLE OF LIFE
LARA CROFT·TOMB RAIDER·THE CRADLE OF LIFE

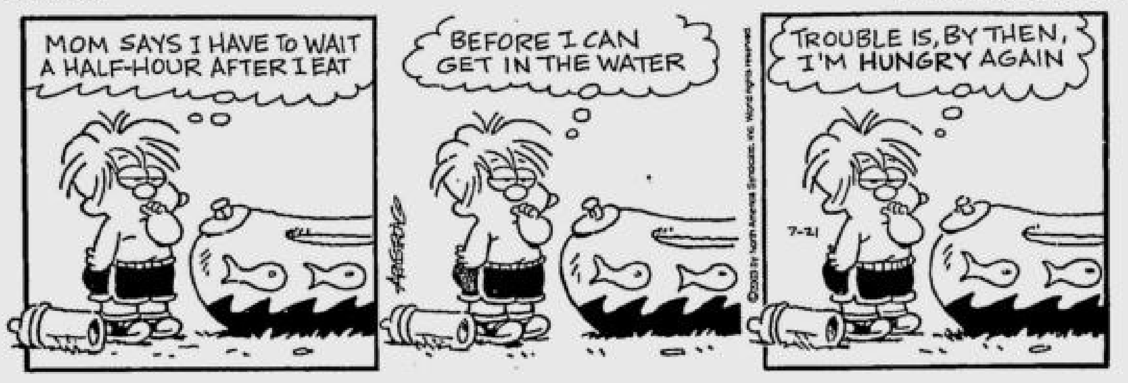
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


I CAN SEE WHY WATER WEATHER BALLOONS NEVER CAUGHT ON.
(OOF) ALMOST THERE...

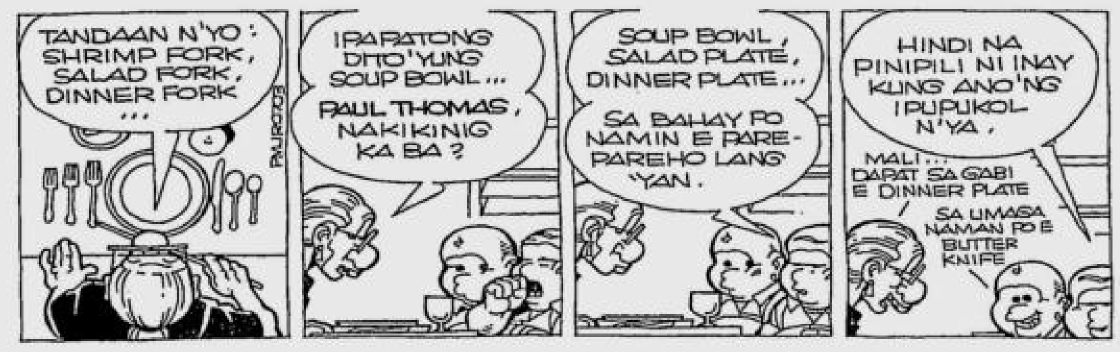
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


GRRRR!@#!
PANO NAKATAKAS YANG SI AL-GHOZI?
KUNG PAPANO NAKATAKAS ANG MGA DATING BILANGGO DYAN!
7/21/03

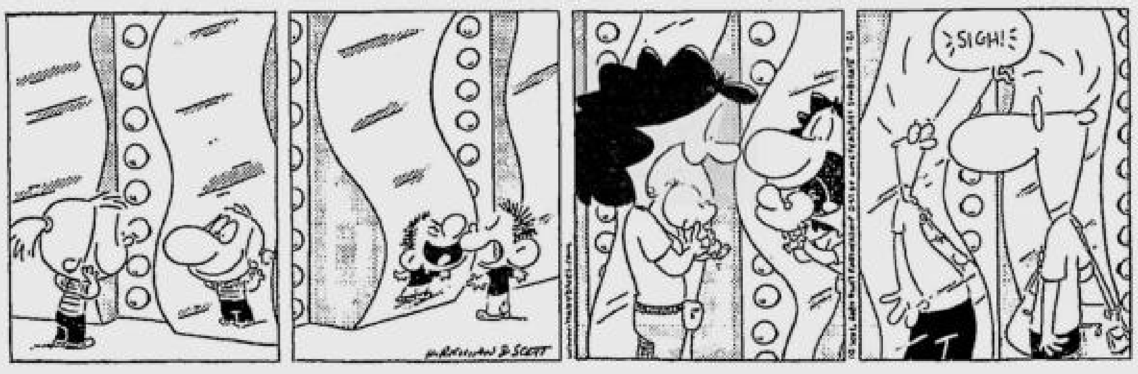
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MOM SAYS I HAVE TO WAIT A HALF-HOUR AFTER I EAT
BEFORE I CAN GET IN THE WATER
TROUBLE IS, BY THEN, I'M HUNGRY AGAIN
7-21

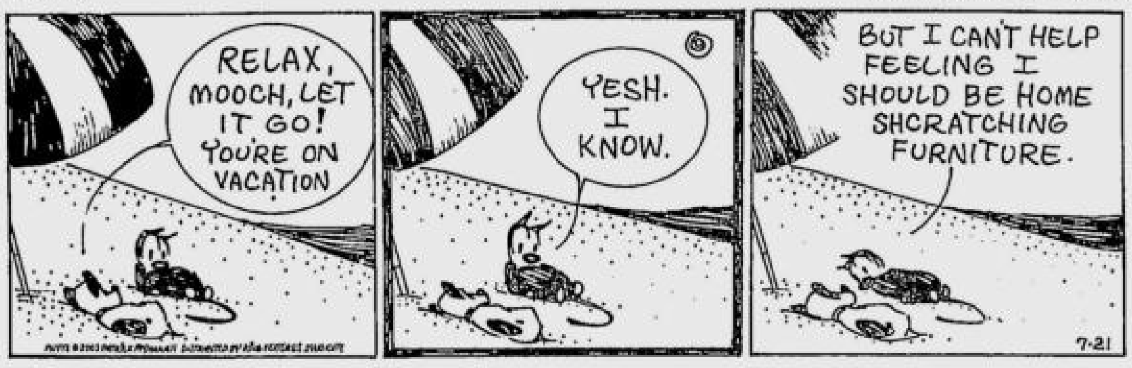
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


TANDAAN N'YO: SHRIMP FORK, SALAD FORK, DINNER FORK ...
IPAPATONG DITO 'YUNG SOUP BOWL ... PAUL THOMAS, NAKIKINIG KA BA?
SOUP BOWL, SALAD PLATE, DINNER PLATE ... SA BAHAY PO NAMIN E PARE-PAREHO LANG 'YAN.
HINDI NA PINIPILI NI INAY KUNG ANO'NG IPUPUKOL N'YA.
MALI... DAPAT SA GABI E DINNER PLATE
SA UMAGA NAMAN PO E BUTTER KNIFE

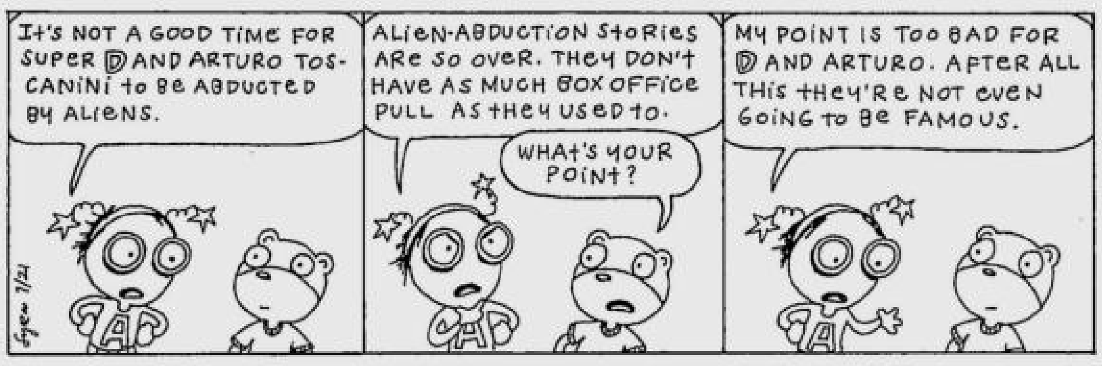
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



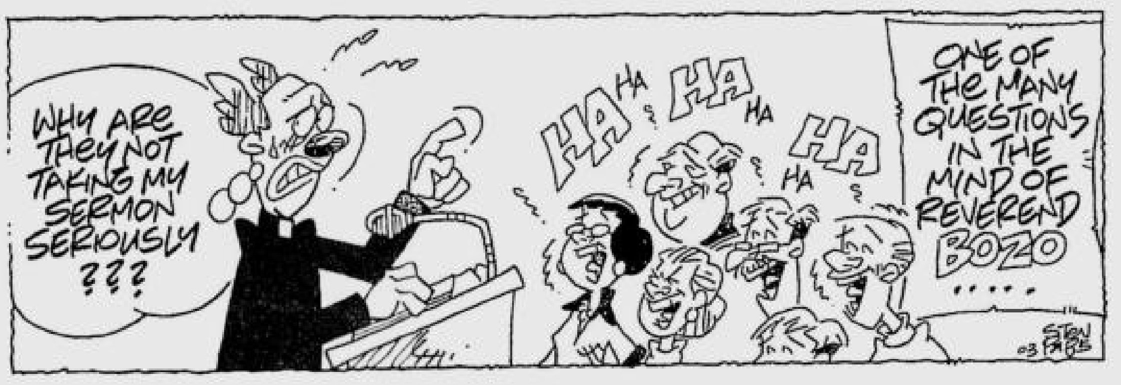
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


RELAX, MOOCH, LET IT GO! YOU'RE ON VACATION
YESH. I KNOW.
BUT I CAN'T HELP FEELING I SHOULD BE HOME SHCRATCHING FURNITURE.
7-21

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


IT'S NOT A GOOD TIME FOR SUPER D AND ARTURO TOSCANINI TO BE ABDUCTED BY ALIENS.
ALIEN-ABDUCTION STORIES ARE SO OVER. THEY DON'T HAVE AS MUCH BOX OFFICE PULL AS THEY USED TO.
WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
MY POINT IS TOO BAD FOR D AND ARTURO. AFTER ALL THIS THEY'RE NOT EVEN GOING TO BE FAMOUS.
7/21

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WHY ARE THEY NOT TAKING MY SERMON SERIOUSLY ???
HA HA HA HA HA HA
ONE OF THE MANY QUESTIONS IN THE MIND OF REVEREND BOZO .....

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are quick-witted and fast-thinking. Whatever you do is daring and thrilling. You need this to give your life juice and excitement. Your ability to think on your feet makes you an excellent debater, teacher and mediator. Privately, you experience mood swings.

Birthdate of: Robin Williams, actor; John Lovitz, comedian/actor; Josh Hartnett, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Think of what you can do today to improve family relations. You might want to buy a little gift for someone. Even if the cost is insignificant, your gesture will be appreciated.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your busy schedule has you hopping today! Appointments, conversations with relatives and siblings, short trips, plus buying and selling keep you busy.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might want to buy something today that you feel you can show off to others. Whatever it is, it will probably be with you for a long time.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): With three planets in your sign now, you attract opportunities and people to you. Because of this, put your best foot forward. Make hay while the sun shines!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You won't regret working behind the scenes right now. Backroom deals, plus business with the government and large institutions are par for the course.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Confide your hopes for the future to a close friend. You need the input from others to test your ideas now. (Speaking out loud can help you formulate your inner thoughts.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Because you easily impress others today, don't be afraid to ask for what you want. This might be the time to go for a raise. At the very least, you'll get praise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Matters connected with publishing, the law, the media, higher education and foreign countries are your primary focus now. This is a good day to make travel plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Finish up red-tape details connected with insurance and shared finances. Once you get this out of the way, you will feel pleased with yourself.

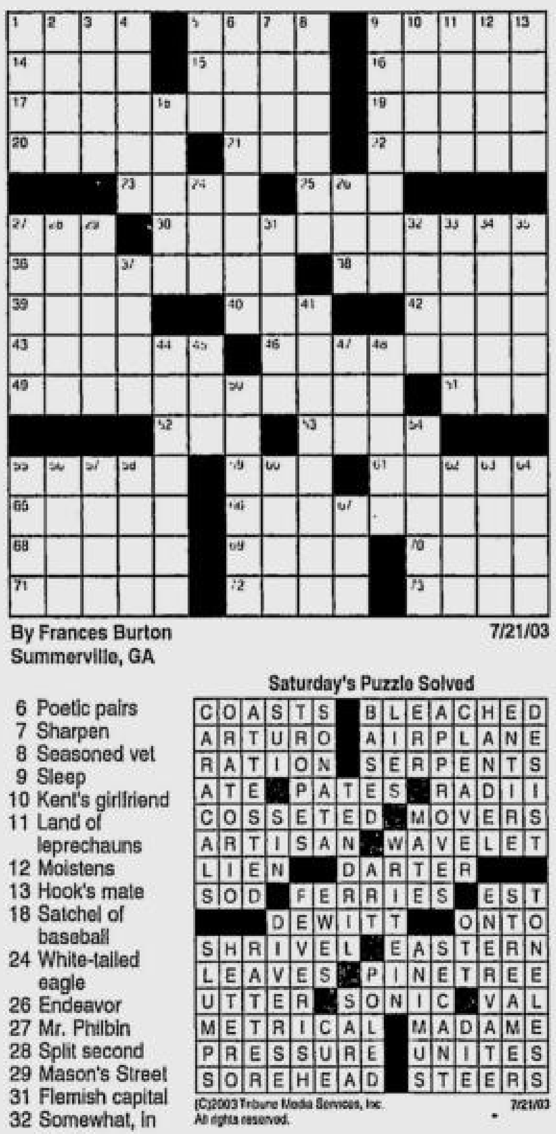
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Don't worry if your energy level is a bit lower than usual. Right now the Sun is as far away from your sign as it gets all year. It's all right to take it easy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're determined to achieve something significant at work. You want to organize your life so that everything runs much more smoothly. Noble aspiration!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Romance, love affairs, vacations, fun times and parties are where it's at for you now. You want to do your own thing; you want to have a good time.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 AC/DC power
5 Repeat
9 Oodles
14 False witness
15 Unflappable
16 Seraglio
17 16-ounce poet?
19 Join together
20 Pat's "Wheel of Fortune" partner
21 Enthusiasm
22 On edge
23 German port
25 Hwy. abbr.
27 "Mayberry, __"
30 Eight-quart actor?
36 Last-minute hour?
38 Petty officers
39 Strong nor'easter
40 D.C. VIP
42 Caesar's partner
43 Small landmasses
46 Overanxious
49 14-pound actress?
51 Wapiti
52 Food scrap
53 Beatnik abodes
55 Intelligent
59 Cheerleader's call
61 Ephesus location
65 Ritzy wheels
66 12-dozen actor?
68 Suspect story?
69 Yugoslavian leader
70 Casual farewell
71 Sheriff's gang
72 Arabian gulf
73 Buy things


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73

By Frances Burton
Summerville, GA

7/21/03

DOWN
1 Alt.
2 Minnelli of "Cabaret"
3 Work for
4 Grouchy person
5 System or friendly lead-in
6 Poetic pairs
7 Sharpen
8 Seasoned vet
9 Sleep
10 Kent's girlfriend
11 Land of leprechauns
12 Moistens
13 Hook's mate
18 Satchel of baseball
24 White-tailed eagle
26 Endeavor
27 Mr. Philbin
28 Split second
29 Mason's Street
31 Flemish capital
32 Somewhat, in music
33 Chew the scenery
34 Beany's TV pal
35 Specific talent
37 Stray off course
41 Tyro
44 Dustin Hoffman movie
45 Elder in the U.K.
47 Spanish article
48 Excavate once more
50 Geological layers
54 Alphabetizes
55 Strike with an open hand
56 Actor O'Shea
57 "Lucky Jim" author
58 Sticks up
60 Like the Gobi
62 Ark-itect?
63 Comparative phrase
64 Pronto letters
67 Ages and ages

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

C	O	A	S	T	S	■	B	L	E	A	C	H	E	D
A	R	T	U	R	O	■	A	I	R	P	L	A	N	E
R	A	T	I	O	N	■	S	E	R	P	E	N	T	S
A	T	E	■	P	A	T	E	S	■	R	A	D	I	I
C	O	S	S	E	T	E	D	■	M	O	V	E	R	S
A	R	T	I	S	A	N	■	W	A	V	E	L	E	T
L	I	E	N	■	■	D	A	R	T	E	R	■	■	■
S	O	D	■	F	E	R	R	I	E	S	■	E	S	T
■	■	■	D	E	W	I	T	T	■	■	O	N	T	O
S	H	R	I	V	E	L	■	E	A	S	T	E	R	N
L	E	A	V	E	S	■	P	I	N	E	T	R	E	E
U	T	T	E	R	■	S	O	N	I	C	■	V	A	L
M	E	T	R	I	C	A	L	■	M	A	D	A	M	E
P	R	E	S	S	U	R	E	■	U	N	I	T	E	S
S	O	R	E	H	E	A	D	■	S	T	E	E	R	S

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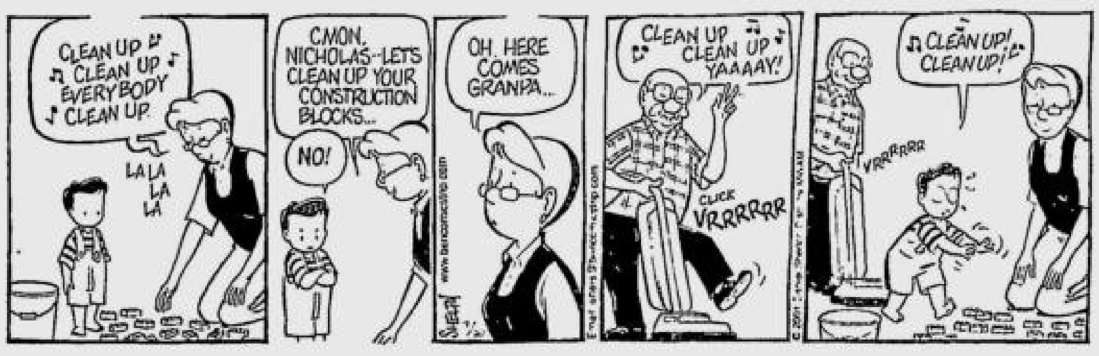
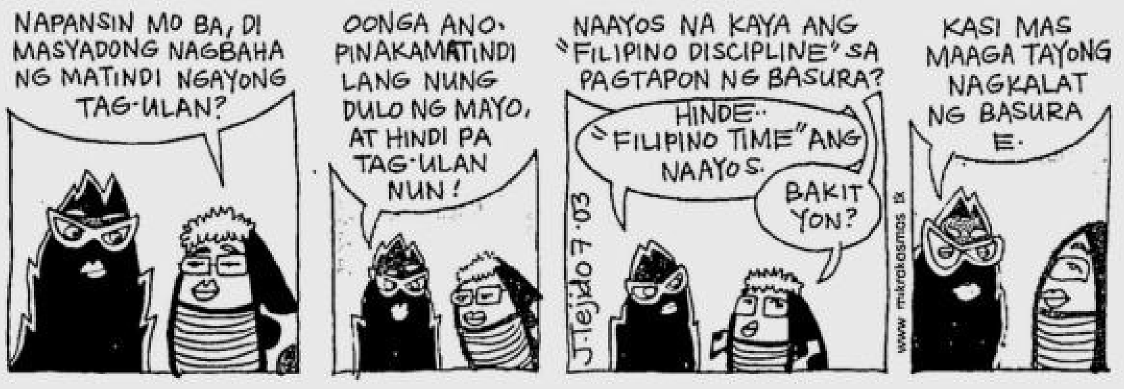
7/21/03

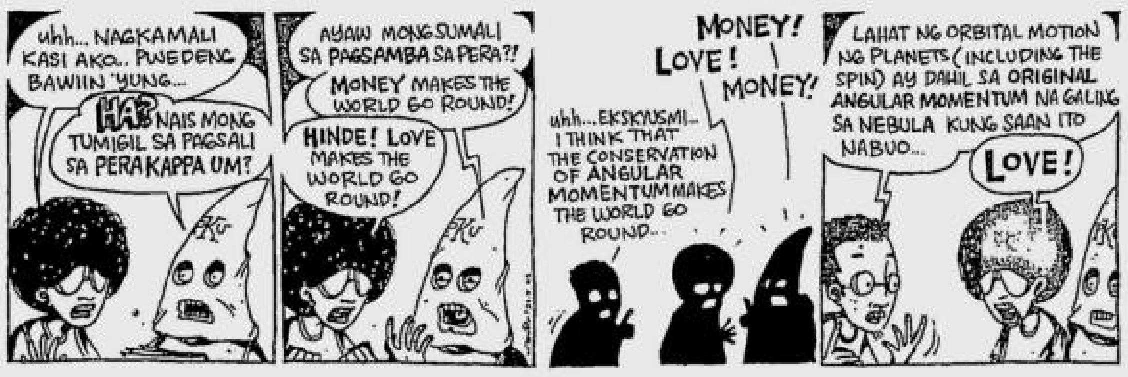
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


CLEAN UP CLEAN UP EVERYBODY CLEAN UP
LA LA LA LA
C'MON, NICHOLAS--LETS CLEAN UP YOUR CONSTRUCTION BLOCKS...
NO!
OH, HERE COMES GRANPA...
CLEAN UP CLEAN UP YAAAAY!
CLICK VRRRRRR
VRRRRRR
CLEAN UP! CLEAN UP!

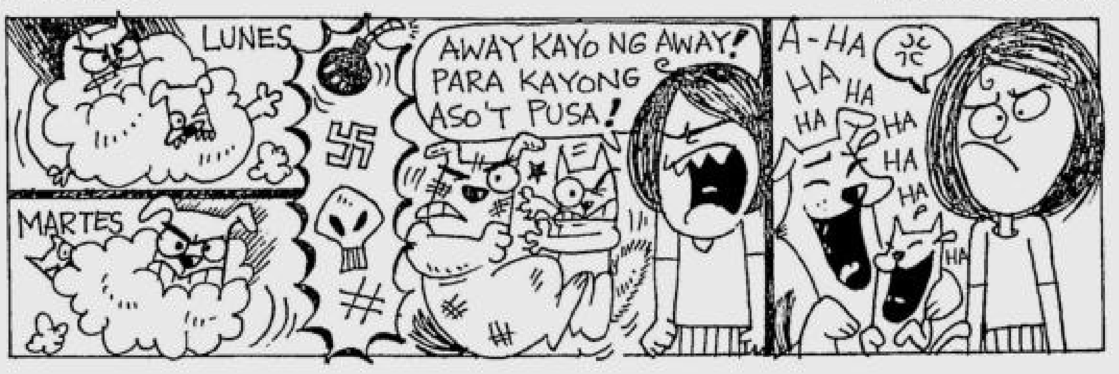
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NAPANSIN MO BA, DI MASYADONG NAGBAHA NG MATINDI NGAYONG TAG-ULAN?
OONGA ANO. PINAKAMATINDI LANG NUNG DULO NG MAYO, AT HINDI PA TAG-ULAN NUN!
NAAYOS NA KAYA ANG "FILIPINO DISCIPLINE" SA PAGTAPON NG BASURA?
HINDE.. "FILIPINO TIME" ANG NAAYOS.
BAKIT YON?
KASI MAS MAAGA TAYONG NAGKALAT NG BASURA E.
J. Tejido 7.03
www.mikrokosmos.tk

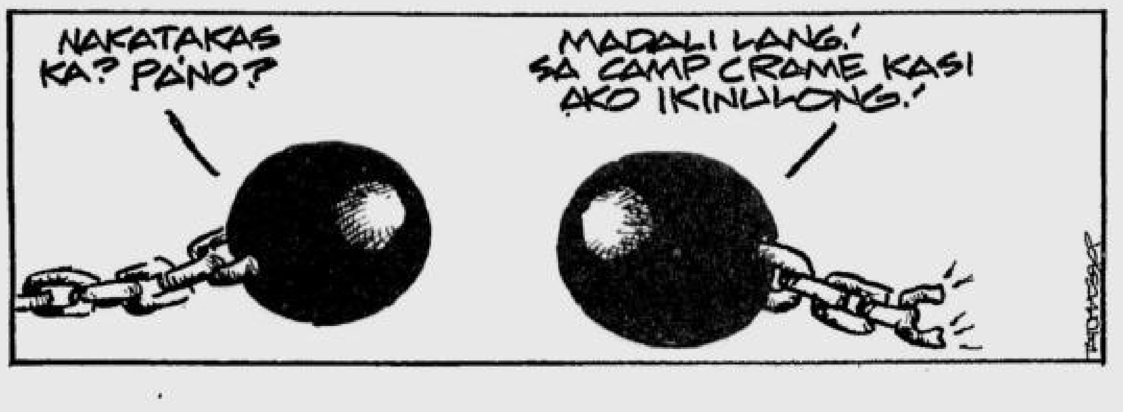
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


uhh... NAGKAMALI KASI AKO.. PWEDENG BAWIIN 'YUNG...
HA? NAIS MONG TUMIGIL SA PAGSALI SA PERAKAPPA UM?
AYAW MONG SUMALI SA PAGSAMBA SA PERA?!
MONEY MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND!
HINDE! LOVE MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND!
uhh... EKSKYUSMI... I THINK THAT THE CONSERVATION OF ANGULAR MOMENTUM MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND...
MONEY! LOVE! MONEY!
LAHAT NG ORBITAL MOTION NG PLANETS (INCLUDING THE SPIN) AY DAHIL SA ORIGINAL ANGULAR MOMENTUM NA GALING SA NEBULA KUNG SAAN ITO NABUO...
LOVE!

FURRY LOGIC BY SUZIE AND CALVIN


LUNES
MARTES
AWAY KAYO NG AWAY! PARA KAYONG ASO'T PUSA!
A-HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NAKATAKAS KA? PANO?
MADALI LANG! SA CAMP CRAME KASI AKO IKINULONG!

BOOTS AND PIECES. He likes a particular pair for sentimental reasons.

Boracay on Michael's mind

OUT OF THE CLOSET

By Marinel R. Cruz

MICHAEL de Mesa has had an ongoing love affair with the resort island of Boracay ever since he first stepped on its powdery white sand.

"I want to explore other beaches, too," says one of the country's most effective movie character actors who is also a mean stage actor and singer. "But I love Boracay so much that I actually want to live there."

The brother of equally talented Mark Gil and Cherie Gil is so obsessed with the place that he has transformed a portion of his Pasig City condo unit into his "Boracay corner," complete with billowing curtains, pillows, candles and Boracay lanterns.

Michael shares this enchantment with his newfound love, Julie Reyes, a gracious hostess to INQUIRER Entertainment during this Out of the Closet visit.

"We love its white sand beaches," says Julie. "We go there even during the rainy season."

The couple said they intend to make the Aklan island a family destination for a long time. This explains Michael's big collection of board shorts, swimming trunks and sarongs, which he keeps in a three-deck closet in one of the three bedrooms of the condo unit.

The closet also holds some of his other favorite stuff, mostly gifts from Julie, and a $200 pair of Gucci eyeglasses he bought "on impulse" during a trip to New York right after he broke up with Gina Alajar, his actress wife of 23 years and the mother of his three sons, Ryan, Jeffrey and AJ, all surnamed Eigenmann, Michael's real name.

"It's a stupid buy," he says of the Gucci shades. "I only bought it because I felt lonely."

The clothes that the son of Eddie Mesa and Rosemarie Gil used to wear in the the now defunct soap ABS-CBN, "Bituin," are in plastic containers in another room. The boxes are labeled "plain long-sleeves," "printed short-sleeves," "colored shorts," etc.

"I don't throw them away because I know I'll still use them in the future," says the actor who played Nora Aunor's negligent husband on the soap.

Favorite jeans. "I like this pair from DKNY because it's stonewashed. This is about two years old. This is Julie's first gift to me."

Favorite long-sleeves. "I like this because of its color, moss green. I've worn this only thrice, twice for TV guest appearances and once in 'Rent in concert.' It's about a year old. I bought it in Greenbelt, in a girl's store, actually. It was the only shirt that was hanging there. And I look sexy in this *daw.*"

Hawaiian shirt. "I bought this from Quicksilver only last April. I like it because it's green. Green is my favorite color. *Basta* green!"

Board shorts. "This is my new hobby, buying board shorts. I used to wear just swimming trunks on the beach. But my kids would tease me, so I bought these. I still sun-bathe in my trunks, though."

Swimming trunks. "I wear them under my board shorts. I like the skimpier ones, *kasi gusto ko pantay ang kulay ko.* I prefer plain black trunks over the other colors."

Sarongs. "I have lots of them! My family and I love to go to the beach. We buy these sarongs in Boracay. I like the green one, but I always seem to use the black and red ones more often. They always seem to be the first ones I grab."

T-shirt. "I like it because it's green. Second, because I can wear it with blue jeans or dress pants and leather boots."

Rubber shoes. "They're Presto shoes from Nike. I love them because they're also a gift from Julie. They're about two years old."

Tap shoes. "I've been into tap dancing for almost a year now, but the lessons have been on and off. I bought these in New York. The design is the newest, high-cut and with built-in plates. You can buy the plates separately and you can put them in any shoes. I'm used to this pair, but I also try the low-cut design. In tap dancing, your ankles should be loose and free."

Boots. "I wear them almost always, especially during TV guestings. I love the style, it goes well with most of my dressy clothes. I bought them at People Are People."

Boxing gloves. "I've had this for almost four months now. *Malakas makapayat ang* boxing. It's a different kind of workout. It's not boring."

Suit. "Again, I like it because it's green. I bought this Ceruti suit for the musical 'Tick . . . Tick . . Boom.' It was on sale, *ang mura.* The fabric is unique."

Sunglasses. "I bought this pair in New York two years ago. It's memorable because I spent 10 days in New York alone. One day, I felt really lonely so I went shopping. I bought this Gucci pair for $200. It's actually a stupid buy because I don't get to wear it often. *Hindi na uso eh.*

"I bought this Polo sunglasses for $100 on the same trip. It was a lonely trip. I had nothing better to do so I just bought stuff.

"This pair is from Ray-Ban. I like it because of its style. I've been wearing this a lot lately. It's not so dark, you can wear it even at night."

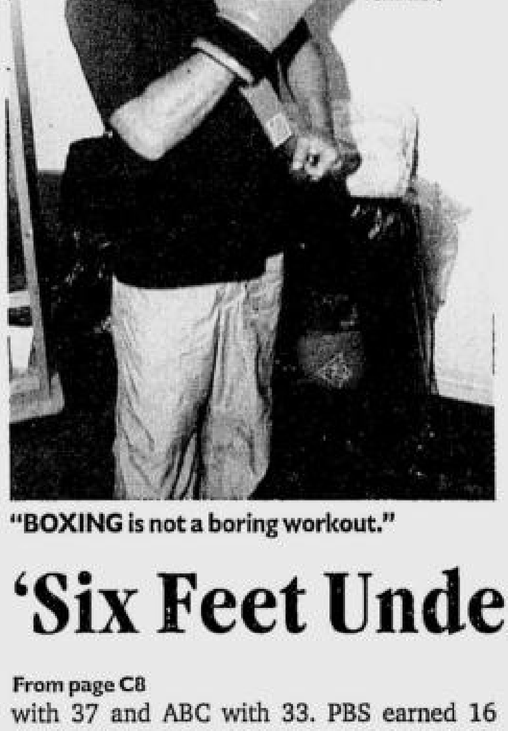
Books. "'Dirt' is about the lives of the members of the Motley Crue band. I like autobiographies because they are based on facts, of course, and are not the product of the writer's imagination."

Jackets. "This is what I always wear whenever I go to the States. It's hooded and it's keeps me really warm."

Nightshirt. "This one has been with me for more than 10 years. The fabric is so thin already, even its color is not white anymore. Julie has repeatedly asked me to throw it away."

BORACAY in a Pasig condo unit with pillows, candles lanterns, a cozy spot which he shares with his newfound love.

"SOAP BOXES" hold clothes Michael used in "Bituin," where he co-starred with Nora Aunor.



"BOXING is not a boring workout."

'I love Boracay so much that I want to live there'

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

THE SKIMPIER the trunks, the better for Michael

'Six Feet Under' buries Emmy rivals

From page C8

with 37 and ABC with 33. PBS earned 16 nominations.

"Six Feet Under" earned lead acting bids for Peter Krause, who plays troubled undertaker Nate Fisher and Frances Conroy, who plays his mother.

"Six Feet Under" cast members Rachel Griffiths and Lauren Ambrose were nominated in the supporting category, and guest-appearance nominations went to James Cromwell and Kathy Bates.

Jennifer Aniston, the reigning best comedy series actress, was nominated again.

Other nominees were Patricia Heaton of "Everybody Loves Raymond," Jane Kaczmarek of "Malcolm in the Middle," Debra Messing of "Will & Grace" and Sarah Jessica Parker of "Sex and the City."

Kaczmarek, taking part in the announcements Thursday, laughed and playfully dropped to the stage floor after hearing her name called.

Ray Romano will have a chance to repeat his best comedy actor award for "Everybody Loves Raymond."

Other nominees were Matt LeBlanc of "Friends," Larry David of "Curb Your Enthusiasm," Bernie Mac of "The Bernie Mac Show," Eric McCormack of "Will & Grace" and Tony Shalhoub of "Monk."

Shalhoub received his nomination for the USA cable channel's comedy-drama in which he plays an obsessive-compulsive detective.

Besides Conroy, other actresses nominated in the drama series category: Edie Falco of "The Sopranos," Jennifer Garner of "Alias," Marg Helgenberger of "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" and Allison Janney of "The West Wing," who took home the trophy last year.

In addition to Krause, a drama series acting bid went to last year's surprise winner, Michael Chiklis of "The Shield," who garnered the first such honor for a basic cable show.

Other nominees: James Gandolfini of "The Sopranos," Martin Sheen of "The West Wing" and Kiefer Sutherland of "24."

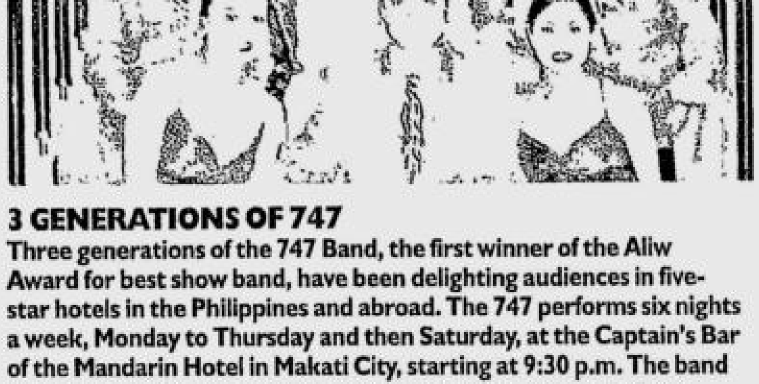
Only three miniseries made the cut, "Hitler, The Rise of Evil" and "Napoleon," each with seven, and "Steven Spielberg Presents: Taken" with six.

In the category for reality-competition programs, nominees were "The Amazing Race," "American Idol," "Survivor," "AFI's 100 Years . . . 100 Passions: America's Greatest Love Stories" and "100 Years of Hope and Humor."

A second reality category, for alternative programming, includes "The Osbournes," "Da Ali G Show," "Trading Spaces," "Antiques Roadshow" and "Cirque Du Soleil Fire Within."

The Emmy Awards are scheduled to air Sept. 21 on Fox. *AP*

SHOW TIME



3 GENERATIONS OF 747

Three generations of the 747 Band, the first winner of the Aliw Award for best show band, have been delighting audiences in five-star hotels in the Philippines and abroad. The 747 performs six nights a week, Monday to Thursday and then Saturday, at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Hotel in Makati City, starting at 9:30 p.m. The band is composed of (front row, from left) Maricel Cruz, Darwin Cruz, Tintin Javier, (middle row) Roger Celestial, Danny Cruz, Cesar Cruz Jr., (back row) Boyet Cruz and Jeffrey Cruz.

16 NOMINATIONS

'Six Feet Under' buries Emmy rivals

LOS ANGELES—"Six Feet Under" and "The West Wing," the Emmy front-runners, will be laboring under handicaps at the awards ceremony in September.

Last year, HBO's macabre funeral home drama was the top nominee with 23 but converted only one into a major award, for directing.

Can "Six Feet Under" exhume more trophies among the 16 nominations it received this year?

NBC's "The West Wing," which received 15 bids, is a three-time best drama series winner. But the White House drama slipped in the ratings and in critical esteem last season, and writer-producer Aaron Sorkin's recent departure from the show could affect Emmy voting.

"People ask how does the (TV) academy think, and I have to say I have no idea," said Alan Ball, creator of "Six Feet Under."

Even when it comes to nominations, he said, "I go into these things without any expectations. I think you have to."

Competing in the best drama series category with "Six Feet Under" and "The West Wing" are HBO's "The Sopranos," Fox's "24" and CBS' "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation."

"The Sopranos," back in contention after missing out on last year's awards because it didn't air during the eligibility period, received 13 nominations, as did the comedies CBS' "Everybody Loves Raymond" and HBO's "Sex and the City."

Other nominated comedy series were HBO's "Curb Your Enthusiasm," NBC's "Will & Grace" and last year's winner, "Friends," also on NBC.

HBO dominated the nominations with its highest-ever total, 109. NBC was second with 77, followed by CBS with 59, Fox

CAN SIX/ C7

"TALK TO HER," by Pedro Almodovar

"CITY OF GOD," by Fernando Mereilles

"SWIMMING POOL," by François Ozon

Cinemanila to premiere winning, controversial films

PEDRO Almodovar's Academy Award-winning "Talk to Her," Lars von Trier's "Dogville" starring Nicole Kidman, Fernando Meirelles' "City of God" from Brazil, as well as the much-awaited "Erotic Tales" and other controversial films by other celebrated directors will have their Philippine premiere at the 5th Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival next month.

The film festival is an annual event staged by Makati City under Mayor Jejomar Binay and the Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines, which was founded by filmmaker Amable "Tikoy" Aguiluz VI.

The festival runs from Aug. 7 to 24 at the Greenbelt Cinemas in Makati City.

American stars, including Lou Diamond Philips, Rob Schneider and Tia Carrere, are expected to grace the filmfest.

"Talk to Her," a tale of love, loss, communication and friendship, won the Oscar for best screenplay, written by Almodovar himself, earlier this year. The film tells the stories of four characters who are brought together. Marco is in love with Lydia, a female bullfighter who goes into a coma after she is gored by a bull. In the hospital, Marco crosses paths with Benigno, a male nurse looking after another coma patient, the young dancer Alicia.

"Dogville," from the director of "Dancer in the Dark" (Palme d'Or winner at Cannes 2000), is the tale of a beautiful and mysterious fugitive (Kidman) who is on the run from gangsters and seeks refuge in a small town called Dogville in the Rocky Mountains in the '30s. It also stars Chloe Sevigny, Jeremy Davies, Stellan Skarsgaard and Lauren Bacall.

"City of God" is about the world's most notorious slum, in a Rio de Janeiro housing project, where police rarely go and residents are lucky if they live to 20. It was Brazil's entry in the 75th Oscars and was nominated for a Golden Globe.

Makati Cinemanila 2003 will also screen "Swimming Pool," by French director François Ozon. It is a provocative film that focuses on a relationship between two women, a conservative mystery writer and her publisher's sexy, free-spirited daughter.

The latest edition of "Erotic Tales" to premiere at Makati Cinemanila includes "Porn.com" by Bob Rafelson, "An Erotic Tale" by Dito Tsintsadze, and "Did You Ever Have Sex Like This?" by Justin Leonard Stauber.

In 2001 the festival featured the complete set of "Erotic Tales," a total of 24 short films, as a tribute to its producer, Regina Zeigler.

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1953

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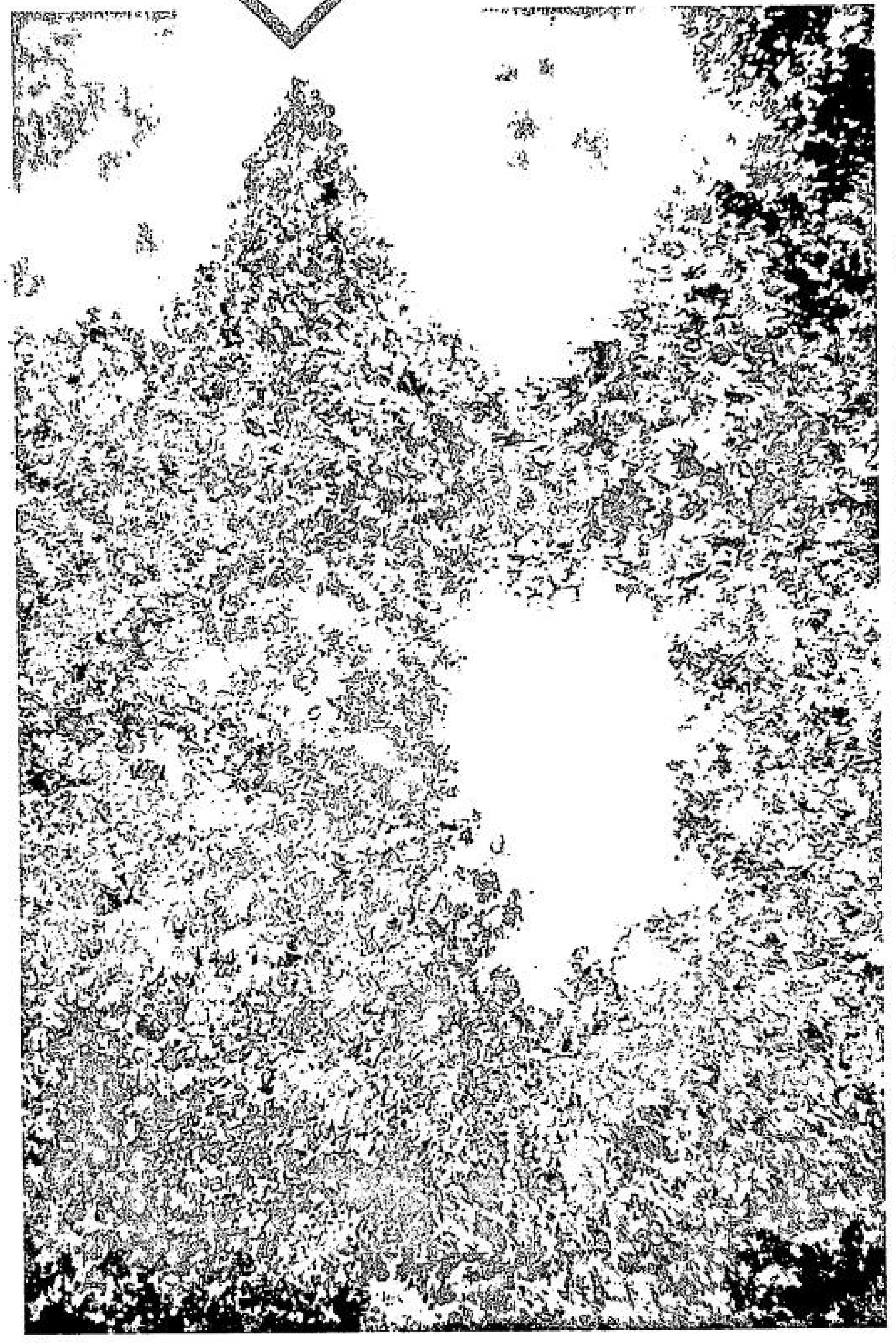
Gising na!



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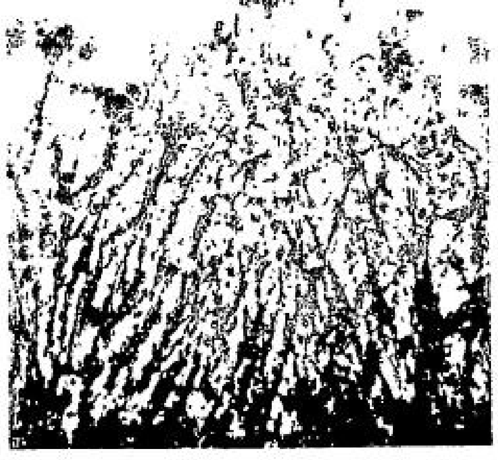
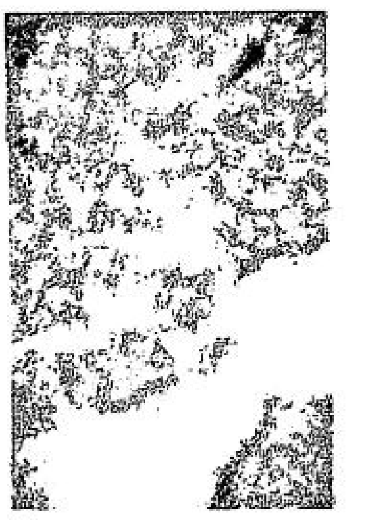


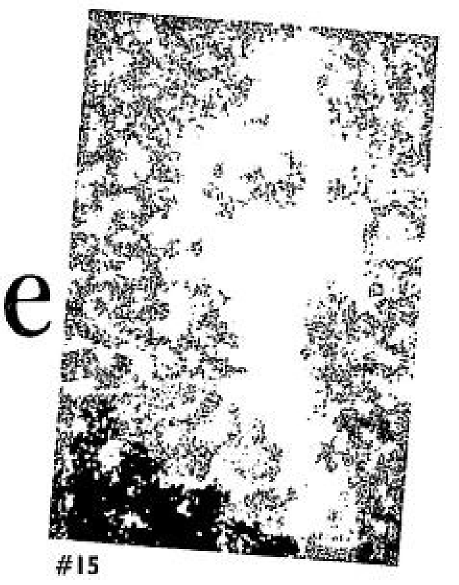
#13

Allan Cosio presents crowd-pleasing landscapes that sustain the trajectory of his audacious art



#5

Art beyond pure optics



#15

By Lito B. Zulueta

PERHAPS the best attraction of Allan V. Cosio's latest paintings is that they situate the artist in terms practical and reachable. Cosio has been such a pregnant talent that he tends to explode in different forms and genres that permanently leave the viewer spellbound and a little bit dazed and behind.

To his credit, he knows how to meet his audience halfway. When it seems that he has lost his audience, he exhibits works that draw them back to his circle of enchantment.

Which is not to say Cosio is your street-smart Eric Blaine who's a trickster and a crowd-pleaser. He doesn't perform magic tricks just for the sake of doing them or taking pleasure out of confounding his audience. He weaves magic to extend the reaches of art. He plays games with the audience to demolish their cozy notions of what art is and is not.

For instance, Cosio has mounted huge tapestries made of strong fiber, such as abaca, on heavy wood supports; the unconventional frame is both a recognition of and a departure from the conventional framing that we know, while endowing three-dimensionality and tactility to the work. In the same vein, he has used capiz shells, framed in metal, to form a large composition that moves, lures and provokes.

Cosio has also done huge sculptural works in massive blocks of hardwood fitted together geometrically. Despite their precise, mathematical measurements, the wood is rough-hewn and raw. Altogether, the works pit against one another nature and artifice.

OpArt

It may come as a surprise to some that Cosio's chief influences are optical artists—Victor Vasarely and Bridget Riley. How could such artists dependent on technology—Vasarely with color and optics, Riley with emulsion and illusion—influence somebody who seems to be fascinated with the materials of nature, with abaca, hardwood, and banig?

The answer to that is that art's materiality derives from both nature and technology, but art's sensibility is affected by the moment and the milieu.

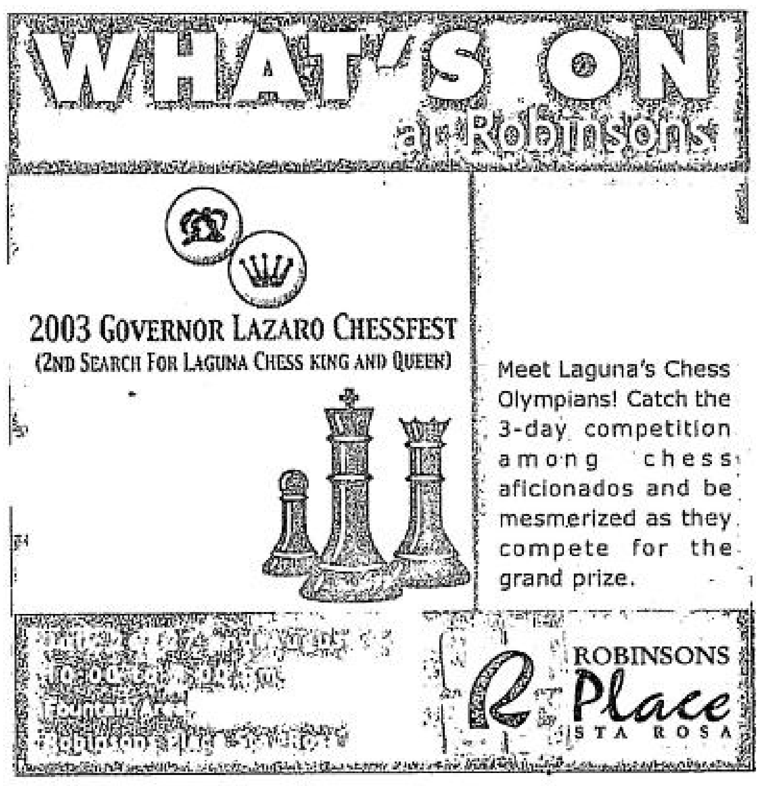
Op Art (or optical art) thrives in the industrialized world where technology has increasingly determined how art is materialized and made, and what passes for art or not. Cosio's art, on the other hand, thrives in a semi-agrarian, semi-industrial setting that exhibits the push-and-pull of indigenization and modernization.

In both cases, their materials may be the same, but Vasarely, Riley and Cosio share the same idiom; they speak the same language.

In his forthcoming exhibit at Galerie Astra in Makati, Cosio shows arresting landscapes that, at first blush, may seem a radical departure from the works we have come to know him for.

Is he trying to play to the gallery, as it were, and please the regular art lover and collector so predisposed to the blissful predictability of the still life, the landcape, and the Madonna and Child?

ART/D2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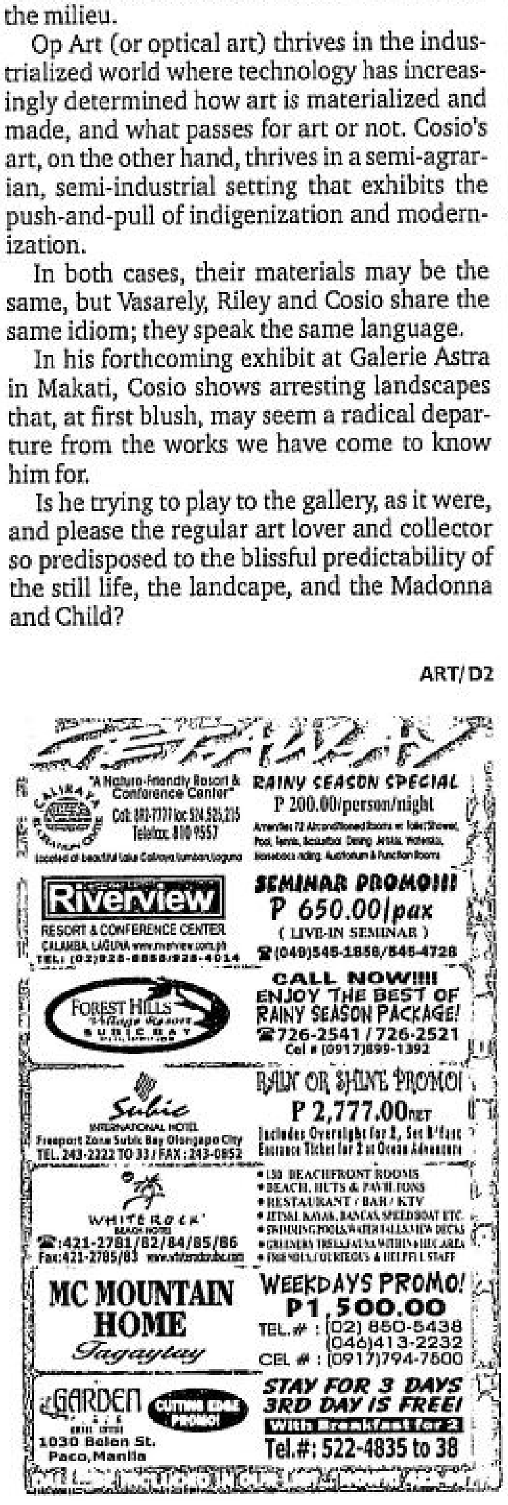
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AAP FINDS A HOME

Art in the park

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

LIKE a homeless drifter, the Art Association of the Philippines (AAP) had no permanent office or business address. The long-running joke was that it was a perennial *"yagit"* all its life.

It looked as though the AAP, at 56 years the country's oldest art goup, was doomed to homelessness until a good Samaritan came along. He is Jaime Recio, executive director of the National Parks Development Council.

When he was appointed by President Macapagal, Recio sought out AAP president Fidel Sarmiento to offer him the area where the Kanlungan ng Sining now stands.

The site had been previously leased to a private gallery operator in an arrangement that Recio found to be highly questionable. So Recio offered the site to the AAP. The AAP and the parks office immediately signed a memorandum of agreement.

The AAP has spruced up the 250-sq.-meter structure. It has also accented the surrounding garden with various outdoor sculptures. With a fresh coat of paint and some minor renovations along the way, the AAP has today become a beehive of activity, with Sarmiento himself reporting daily and holding office there, pro bono.

Under Sarmiento and the AAP, Kanlungan ng Sining exudes the lived-in, well-managed look of an office, with walls perennially splattered with artworks, a reading corner teeming with art books and periodicals, a telefax machine, and a computer (donated by a generous soul).

"It's about time the AAP found a home," Sarmiento says, beaming with pride. "We were already happy with the transitory setup at P. Guevarra in San Juan, in a small place being leased to us by the owner who just wanted artworks in exchange for the monthly rent. But when this offer came, we felt totally relieved of this great burden, and truly gratified that our squatting days are over."

Since he took over, Sarmiento, an artist who belongs to Pintanaw, has breathed new life into a group that somehow manages to come alive only during the AAP Annual.

With the generous space given the AAP, Sarmiento has initiated a host of projects to involve artists, students and the public.

Visitors and promenaders now feel welcome. The place has hosted exhibits, performances, lectures, and the visits of artists and art lovers from all over the country.

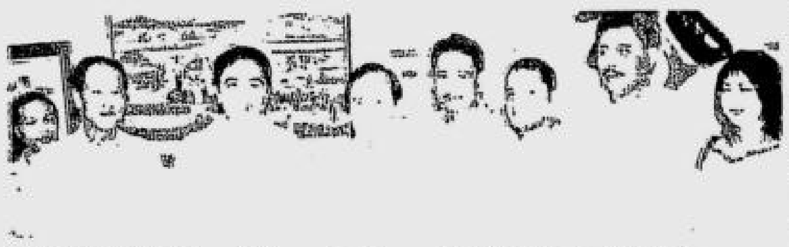
There are more tasks ahead. There is the need to set up a permanent gallery to house artworks, as well as an inventory of AAP assets. Interaction sessions with art students in Metro Manila must be organized. And the AAP needs a permanent staff composed of a secretary, a librarian and a documentarian.

But all this will come in due time, says Sarmiento, who does not feel saddled at having to work with a meager budget.

Now, with a permanent address to write down on its mail and memos, the grand old dame of Philippine art can look forward to a happy, fruitful life ahead in the next 50 years.

E-mail author at gdormiendo@yahoo.coml

THE INTERIORS of the AAP Kanlungan ng Sining with an interaction, installation and being viewed by AAP president Fidel Sarmiento



KALAYAAN 2003 exhibit guests: (from left) MMDA chair Bayani Fernando, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, NPDC director Jaime Recio and AAP officers led by president Fidel Sarmineto, vice president Buds Convocar, members Noel Catacutan and Teza Cornes

MEETING of AAP members at the Kanlungan ng Sinig gardens.

Tito Roy's women

By Constantino C. Tejero

TITO Roy's "Girls' Night Out," 17 pieces of acrylic on canvas and on paper, shown recently in The Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City, would seem like the handiwork of a young Pop artist.

These are pastel-colored illustrations notable for their linear flat style, blending the look of Mary Cassatt's portrait drawings of women and the polychrome woodblock prints of Hiroshige. They're rendered in washes of color, almost in the staining method of Helen Frankenthaler, against a flat background of green, gray, ochre or lilac.

In fact, Roy is one accomplished artist who's gaining a reputation only now some four decades after he started.

He graduated from the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts in 1962, with Benjamin Cabrera and Ofelia Gelveson among his classmates, and José Joya, Rod. Paras-Perez, Larry Alcala and Toribio Herrera among their mentors.

But it was not until 1972 that he had his first exhibit, a two-man show at Hidalgo Gallery.

And it was not until 1999 that he had his first solo exhibit, held at Legacy, when he was already 59 years old. This was "Bamboo," 12 pieces in acrylic on canvas, depicting the bamboo in impressionist style.

That's because for years he was stuck in the advertising world, where he had been creative team head in firms such as McCann-Erickson, Ace-Compton, Hemisphere-Leo Burnett, until his retirement two years ago.

In fact, the subjects of this exhibit are mostly the female officemates whom he'd closely observed. "Kawawa naman ang girls, *hindi makapanligaw,"* he recalls.

Thus, the vignettes depict these young career women in preparation for dates or waiting for their dates. As in "Catch Me If You Can," which shows a woman in green long skirt and gold tube blouse fixing her hair with a floral bandanna.

Variations on this appear in several pieces, such as "If Only You Could See Me Now," where the woman in pink tube blouse and orange long skirt is fixing an earring. (By the titles, one sees how Lichtenstein's comic-book art has influenced Roy.)

Dual roles

It is the same woman's situation, varying only in the downcast eyes or sidelong glances ("Tonight Is the Night"), the colors and styles of dresses and cut of hair, the progression of anxiety on the face ("Will He Show Up?"), until it is a downturned yet determined mask, with the figure posing as if on a ramp, hand on hip ("You Don't Know What You're Missing"). And she's ready to go ("There's No Stopping Now").

And if ever these women go out, there's bound to be inertia, both psychological and moral.

In "We're Going Nowhere," three women in green and orange cocktail dresses are engaged in small talk with two men in a singles bar, drinking wine, brandy, rosé. In "Come, Make Your Move," the bar becomes a pick-up place as the figures in outfits of green, brown, orange and maroon wait it out, behaving like predators and preys.

The quiet desperation of these women are acted out in "Don't Push Your Luck," then in "We'll Wait a While," but especially in "Tonight, Mr. Wrong Will Do," and finally in "No Bloody Marys for Me, James." They who seemed liberated are now just pathetic.

The women appear to be more in control in the domestic scenes, and how keenly the artist portrays the various roles of woman in such setting.

"Give Me a Break" is a diptych showing a woman in a green house dress blow-drying her hair while lounging on a pink chair with gold upholstery, a pink comb and mirror beside her. On the floor is a boy playing with a pink toy airplane. Here the woman is trying to break free from her role as mother, to find time for herself.

Our favorite is the triptych "Paddy's Teatime," with its three domestic scenes seen as if from outside, the window-like pictorial frames bordered by brown curtains and green blinds.

In the kitchen, the lady of the house in old rose is taking the cake from the refrigerator, while an aproned maid is preparing the fruit salad. In the hallway, two maids in green checkered uniform are carrying a tray of plates and a pot of dish. In the sala, four female guests seated on floral upholstery are chitchatting over drinks and pica-pica.

Here woman is portrayed as both convention-bound and liberated, acting her dual roles as master and servant.

New style

To illustrate these vignettes, the artist blends Western graphic art and Oriental coloration. In some instances, white borders frame the color planes, to approximate the beige Oriental scroll.

Roy admits he's heavily influenced by Japanese print but has modified it a bit. *"Puro itim* ang outline *ng* Japanese print. *Natapangan ako. Lapis lang ang ginagamit ko, 'yung pinakamahina,* like No. 1. *Minsan ang* lines *tinatakpan ko pa ng* white acrylic.*"*

Watercolor was his original medium, but now he's comfortable with acrylic. He doesn't want to work in oil, as it is *"masakit sa ilong, hirap linisin, matagal matuyo."*

He admires the Impressionists like Cassatt, the Post-Impressionists like Gauguin, the great colorists like Matisse, all the way to graphic art and Japanese print.

In his early years, he did four abstracts heavily influenced by Joya. His art has been strictly figurative, but this particular style of graphic art he started exploring only two years ago.

At that time, he went with some friends to Mercado restaurant in Makati, where he had an artwork in the function room. It was a triptych of 4' x 8' pieces in acrylic on wood panels, depicting a still life of lobsters, grapes, wine, ham, outlined on a white background.

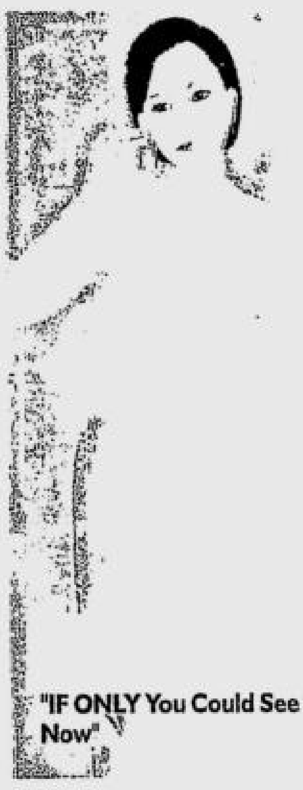
When one in the group, his former UP mentor Rod. Paras-Perez, saw it, he urged Roy to concentrate on this kind of art-making, which reminded him of Japanese print.

"Medyo nahihiya pa ako sa painting *ko, hindi ko nga pinirmahan,"* recalls Roy. "So I asked him, 'Why this? Flat *ang dating ng* color.' But he said, *'E, ano kung* flat? *Sina* Warhol *at* Lichtenstein flat *din.'*

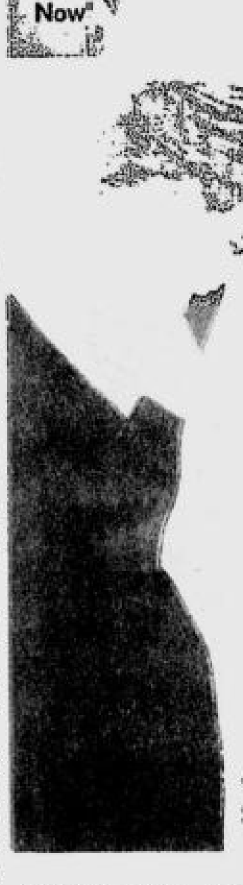
"So when I went to New York, I bought books on Japanese art, studied it, and asked myself how I could incorporate it into my art. When I returned to the country, for three months *wala akong ginawa* but made studies of a girl with an umbrella."

We'd say, how well he has succeeded. One can see in the looks and postures of his women the Japanese as well as the Filipino. In a word, Oriental.

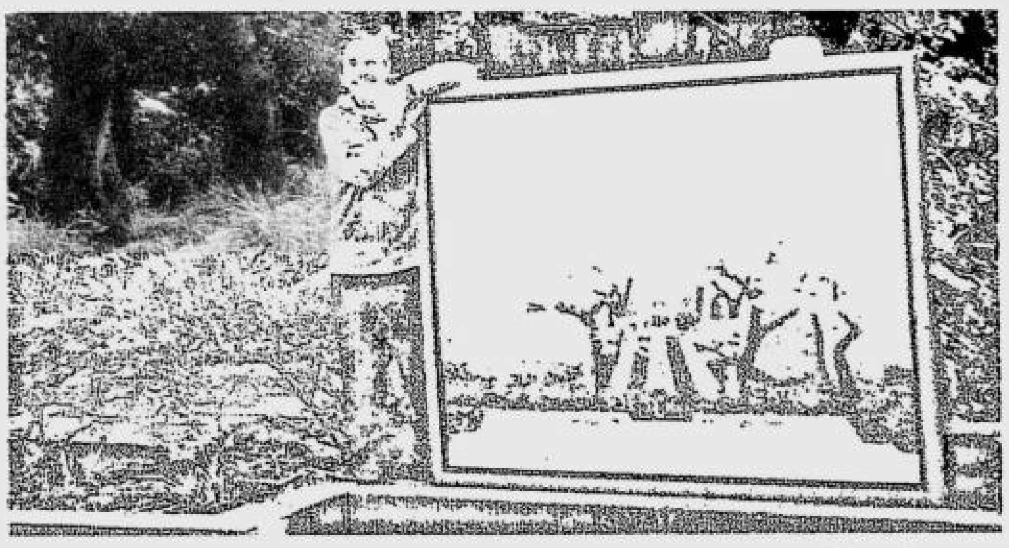
"Girls' Night Out" is only Roy's sixth solo exhibit, and he's already 63. It may be too late now to give him something like the 13 Artists Award, but it's never too late to appreciate art that is ageless.



"IF ONLY You Could See Me Now"



"WILL He ShowUp?"



BALDEMOR'S "Ohanami" runs at the Artspace of Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati.

Baldemor at Artspace, Valeria at Drawing Room

VISUAL ARTS

GALERIE Y presents Manuel Baldemor's exhibit, "Ohanami, Magic Moments under the Cherry Blossoms," at Artspace, 3rd floor, Glorietta IV, Makati. The show, which features canvases inspired by Baldemor's Japanese sojourn, runs until July 22.

VALERIA Cavestany is showing her paintings, decoupage and dividers-lamps made with cloth and iron until Aug. 6 at The Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati.
In the show, Cavestany plays with the concept of multiplicity. Her subject is nostalgia, represented by commercial images of Oriental women.

THE ALCOVE Photo Gallery, Makati Avenue, Ayala Triangle, Makati, presents "Laos: Hazy Days in Luang Prabang" by Chinqui Roldan and Alex Boome. The show is ongoing until July 31.

"YAMANG-DAGAT" will feature the works of underwater photographer Corazon Guidote and underwater videographer Mel Segarra. The exhibit starts on Aug. 8 at Level 3, Enterprise Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati.

THE BIG & Small Art Co., at SM Megamall presents the acrylic artworks of Pep Manalang and Joseph Lofranco in "Untitled Complex, Collaboration, Works on Paper" until July 27.

ARNEL Mirasol's oil painting specialization course will be held on Aug. 2, 2-5 p.m. Lessons in still life, landscape and seascape painting and basic portraiture will be taught. Workshop venue is at the Tata Design Specialist, 2143 CM Recto Ave., Quiapo, Manila. Call 131-0193.

WEST Gallery will exhibit "Specific Gravities" on July 22-Aug. 4 at the Art Center in SM Megamall. The show features the works of (from left) Soler, R.M. de Leon, Jonathan Olazo, Nilo Ilarde and Ronald Achacoso.

Art beyond pure optics

From page D1

Evolution

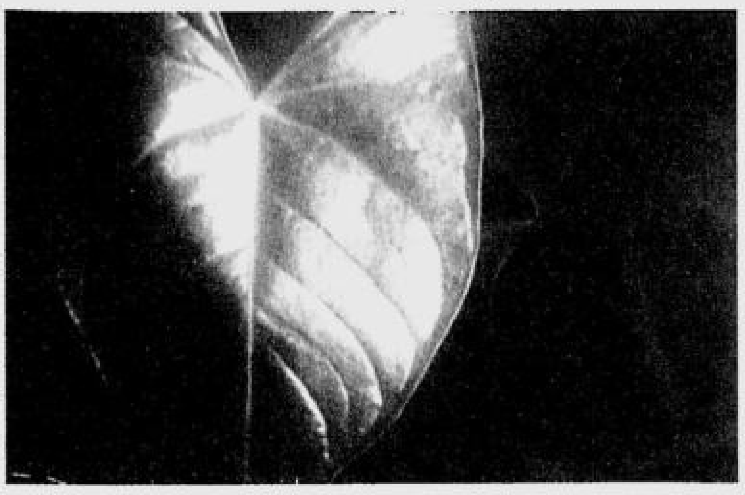
Yes and no. Yes, because he does not want to lose his audience. No, because the show is part and parcel of his artistic evolution. To be sure, the landscapes in acrylic are consistent with Cosio's fascination with nature, a fascination that has brought him to experiment with indigenous fibers and materials and Philippine hardwood.

All of the works, too, are infused with abstraction. Impressionist at first glance (which should please many art lovers and collectors who look much for sunlight and dappled things in canvases), the works are really abstract, much like Vasarely discovering the "internal geometry" below the surface of the world.

Moreover, the canvases are large, all measuring 4x4, their scale somehow alluding to the massiveness of Cosio's tapestries and sculptures. Therefore, they are consistent with Cosio's explorations with spatiality and temporality, of what Vasarely calls "the within and the without communicating by osmosis." Definitely, these large works will grow in you.

In the end, the new exhibit should present the same Cosio but in another guise, in another form. Despite the conventionality of landscapes, the artist shows his intrepid spirit in his adventuresome abstraction, his searching colors, and his audacity at showing the sheer materiality of his art. It is an art that looks within and outside. It is an art that goes beyond pure optics.

Allan Cosio will unveil his latest exhibit on July 25 at the Galerie Astra, at the second floor of the Art Pavilion, LRI Business Center, across Alliance Fransaise, on N. Garcia St. (formerly Reposo), Makati City. The show runs until Aug. 8. Call 726-9015 or 724-3032.



ARNEL Villegas will exhibit "Portals," a body of black-and-white photographs, at the Philippine Center in New York City on July 28-Aug. 8.

Santos at West, 'Next Generation' at InterCon

JOSE Santos III mounts his 7th solo exhibition "Orientations" at West Gallery, SM Megamall, on July 24-Aug. 6. The exhibit features 14 works on paper that borrows the format of playing cards as anchor for conveying personal narratives.

VISUAL ARTS

DENNIS Mallares Gonzales holds his first solo show at Kulay Diwa Art Galleries until Aug. 13. Kulay Diwa is at 25 Lopez Ave., Lopez Village, Sucat, Parañaque.

"SAGADA Traditions" is ongoing at The Sanctuary Gallery of Maryknoll, Campo Sioco, Baguio City, until Sept. 7. The show features recent photos of a *begnas* ceremony by Tommy Hafalla and stoneware by Lope Bosaing.

SANTOS/D4

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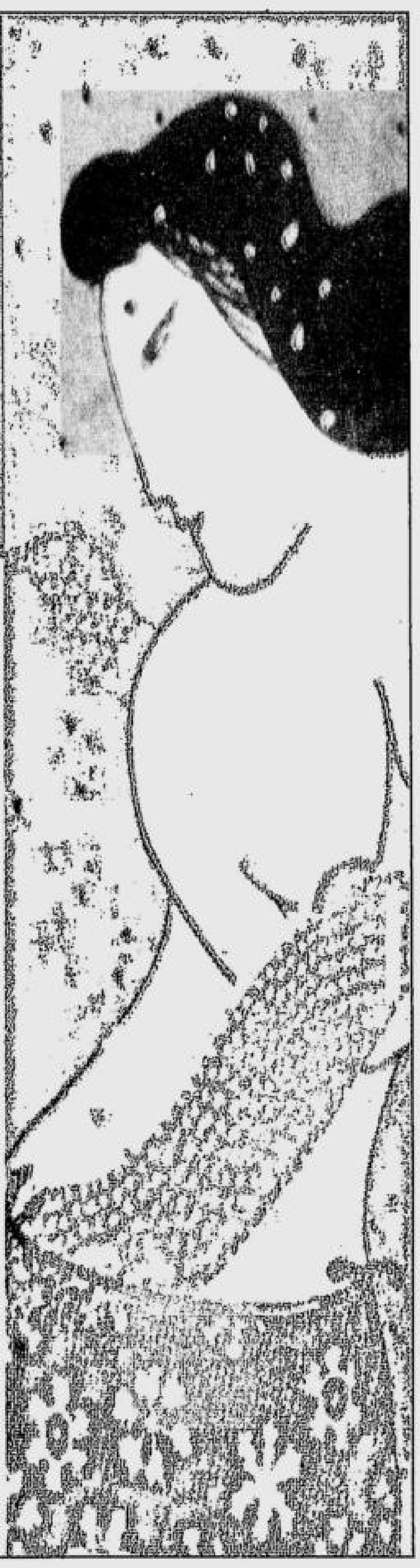

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Pride of park

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

THE PUERTO Princesa Subterranean River National Park has the distinction of being the only national park in the country that is inside a city. It is among the treasures of the Philippines.

Its inscription in the Unesco World Heritage List as one of the irreplaceable natural sites of the world gives it an international dimension.

The World Heritage List calls the park a "wide array of ecosystems ranging from tropical rainforest and beach forest to mangroves, sandy beaches and coral reefs."

When the Subterranean River was first nominated to the Heritage List, the evaluators saw that the Subterranean River was only one part of a complex natural system that sustained the mountainous landscape, the river and the sea.

They recommended that the the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park be increased from its original 3,900 hectares to a size large enough to ensure that the entire system of natural catchment areas that sustain the river would fall inside the park. That way the sustainability and integrity of the park could be protected and maintained.

It took a few years for the City of Puerto Princesa to complete the slow and complex process of enlarging the park, but eventually they were able to grow it to a respectable size of 22,200 hectares.

Within the year of the declaration of the new park boundaries, the Unesco inscription was approved.

When Cabayugan River, which runs through the center of the park, disappears into a hole in the rocks, it becomes the Subterranean River and begins a spectacular journey of about 8 kilometers to the sea.

The water of the Subterranean River slowly carved an extensive system of caves into the limestone mountain. The process took eons, as fractures slowly widened into passages and galleries that eventually merged together during the glacial and interglacial periods of over 1.1 million years ago.

One of the unique facts about the river is that it flows out to the sea. It is therefore affected by the tides and its water is brackish (mixed salt and freshwater).

The Subterranean River is accessible by boat for a length of 4.5 kilometers until reaching Rock Pile, where a section of the cave roof collapsed a long time ago, blocking a great part of the river. After that point, travel must be done by foot.

Another world

Inside the cave is another world. Drops of water coming down from the ceiling have hardened into stalactites. They usually hang above stalagmites, which were formed by water dripping directly onto the cave floor. Some stalactites and stalagmites join to become columns.

The view is spectacular. Nature shows off her most beautiful colors, forms and shapes—an awesome spectacle.

The rock formations inside the cave teem with life. An estimated 47,000 bats hang from the ceiling in the daytime and fly out together each sunset as a fast-moving black cloud. Swiftlets roost deep in the cave, and there are river eels, shrimps, crabs and a species of blind fish. Invertebrates include tarantulas, black scorpions, stone crickets, centipedes.

> The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park is a triumph of environmental management

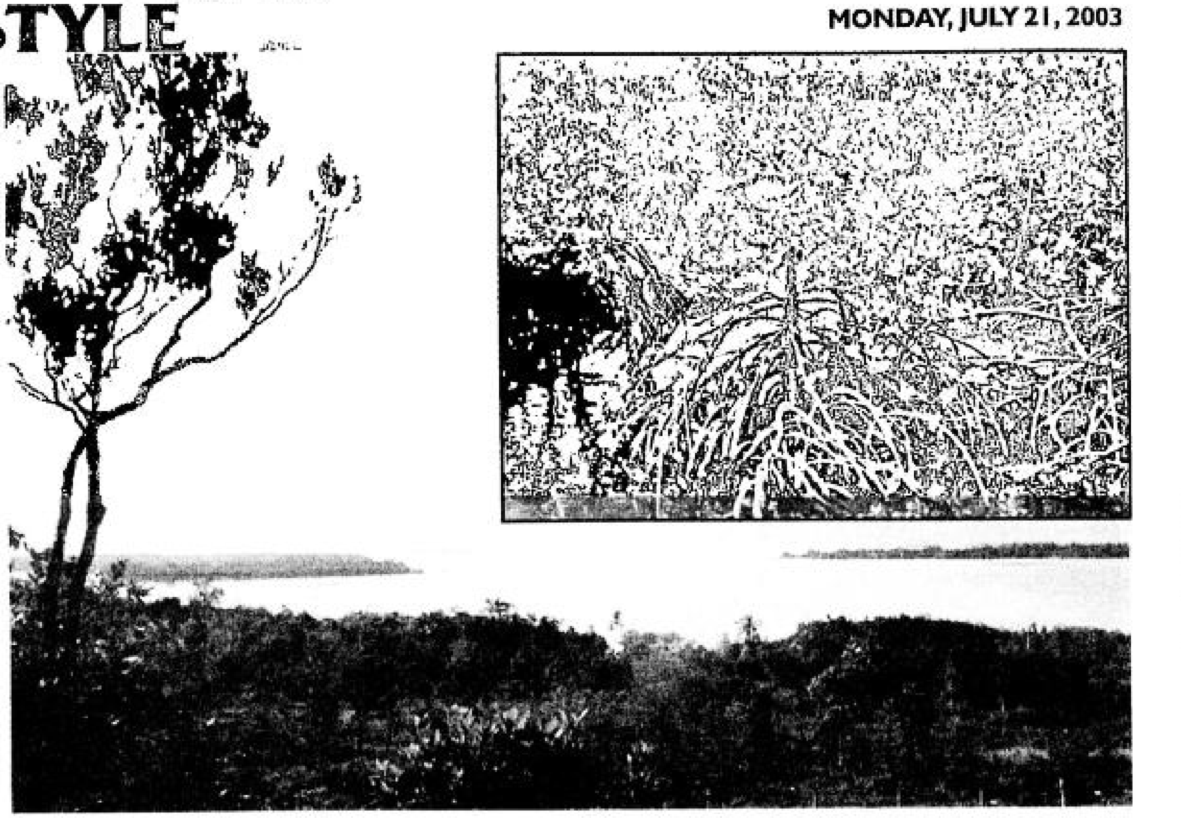
However, much of this life is threatened by an increasing number of tourist arrivals.

The park is as spectacular as the subterranean river that it shelters. There are different types of forests: lowland evergreen, karst and beach forests.

The lowland evergreen forest is a tropical rainforest where trees are tall and straight, with their branches forming a dense canopy that allows little light to reach the ground.

The main characteristic of the karst forest is the weathered limestone that has formed a majestic landscape of jagged spires and pinnacles. A set of plants have adapted to the vertical cliffs by developing extensive root systems to anchor themselves in the crevices of the rocks.

In small, sandy coves isolated by the karst cliffs is the beach forest that is characterized by plants that tolerate sandy soil and salt spray from the sea.



A COMPLEX natural system that sustains the mountainous landscape, the river and the sea; (inset) mangroves

Where land meets sea

The intertidal zone is where the land meets the sea. It is the area where the mangrove community provides an important buffer zone rich with a productive ecosystem which provides shelter to young fish which feed on algae.

There are also crabs, sea urchins, various crustaceans. Birds nest on the mangrove branches.

Although in the Philippines all mangrove areas are protected by law, these irreplaceable ecosystems fall victim to coastal development or cleared to make ponds for aquaculture.

Adding to the variety of the intertidal zone are sandy beaches and rocky shorelines, each with their own ecosystems that are the transition zones for the underwater coral reefs in the protected area of the park.

Tropical forests and coastal ecosystems such as that found in the park are some of the most biologically diverse and important habitats on earth. All over the world, these ecosystems are threatened by increasing human activities.

Rapidly growing population outside the boundaries of the park leads to clearing of land in the upper watershed areas for agriculture. With agriculture comes the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and soil erosion that threaten the marine life.

Coastal resources in the Philippines are rapidly declining due to the clearing of beach forests and mangroves.

The park's management takes protection seriously. Within its protected zone, a management plan to maintain the integrity of the natural resources is carefully followed.

The management also goes into tourism. Tourists are only allowed to visit designated areas. Tourists who visit the rainforest must stay on a wooden walk that makes a path through the forest.

Only authorized *bancas* with well-trained guides can take visitors into the Subterranean River. To ensure safety, life jackets must be worn.

The Puerto Princesa Underground River is one of the few examples of effective protected-area management in the Philippines, a place other site managers should visit to see for themselves how it should be done.

The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park is one of the places in the Philippines that should make the Filipino proud of the spectacular natural beauty of his country.

E-mail the author at afvillalon@hotmail.com

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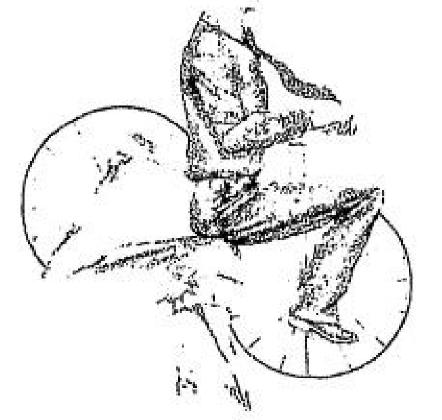


"THE CYCLIST," by Jose Santos III

Santos at West, 'Next Generation' at InterCon

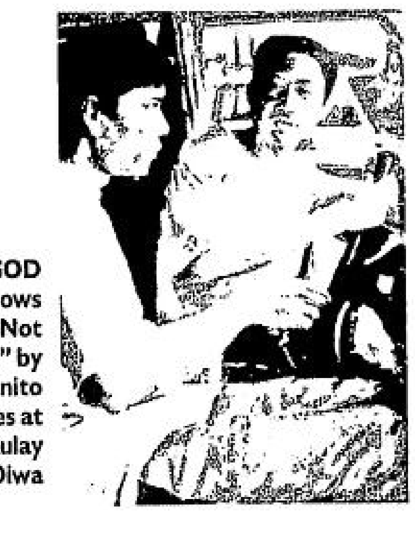
From page D3

INTERCONTINENTAL Manila's Art Café presents "Next Gen: Art in the Genes" on July 23-Aug. 13. The exhibit will feature the works of Mailah and Monnar Baldemor, Jonathan Olazo, Marcel Antonio and Fatima, Nikulas Lebajo, Paulo Vinluan, Erik Liongoren, Karlota Contreras, Mia and Johanna Pettyjohn, and Aba Lluch Dalena.

KULAY Diwa (25 Lopez Ave., Lopez Village, Sucat, Parañaque) will feature "FX" on Aug. 17-Sept. 10 at Black Gallery. The show will exhibit the works of Alexander Abon, Renato Barja Jr., Mark Barretto, Robert Besana, Lawrence Borsoto, Nonie Cruzado, Eugenio Cubillo III, Reynold de la Cruz, Carlo Gernale, Dennis Gonzales, Christopher Guillergan, Mark Magugat, Bernard Pena, Edmond Reboredo and Juanito Torres. The show features 15 oil works depicting situations on board the now-familiar Metro Manila public transport.

THE CRUCIBLE Gallery will showcase the finger paintings of Amelou Juinio on July 23-Aug. 10. Crucible is at the 4/F, SM Megamall A.

FINALE Art Gallery presents "Façade" by MM Yu until July 27. Finale is located at the 4/L of SM Megamall A.



"GOD Knows Hudas Not Pay," by Juanito Torres at Kulay Diwa

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A SCENE from "Magno Rubio"

Ma-yi's 'Magno Rubio' redefines triumph for the embattled immigrant worker

The Obie award-winning play reminds us that, in the end, the only thing a person has is his dignity

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

"THE ROMANCE of Magno Rubio" may be set in Depression-era California of the 1930s, but the bittersweet battle of its title character reaches across races, nationalities and generations.

Like his modern-day descendants—the domestics in Hong Kong, the engineers and tradesmen in Saudi Arabia, maybe even the thousands of teachers and nurses resettling in the USA—immigrant worker Magno Rubio left hearth and home hoping to realize his dreams in a strange, vibrant and occasionally hostile land.

Most of these stories, real-life, cinematic or theatrical, end in either tragedy or triumph. The immigrant makes his millions and either comes back home or changes national al-

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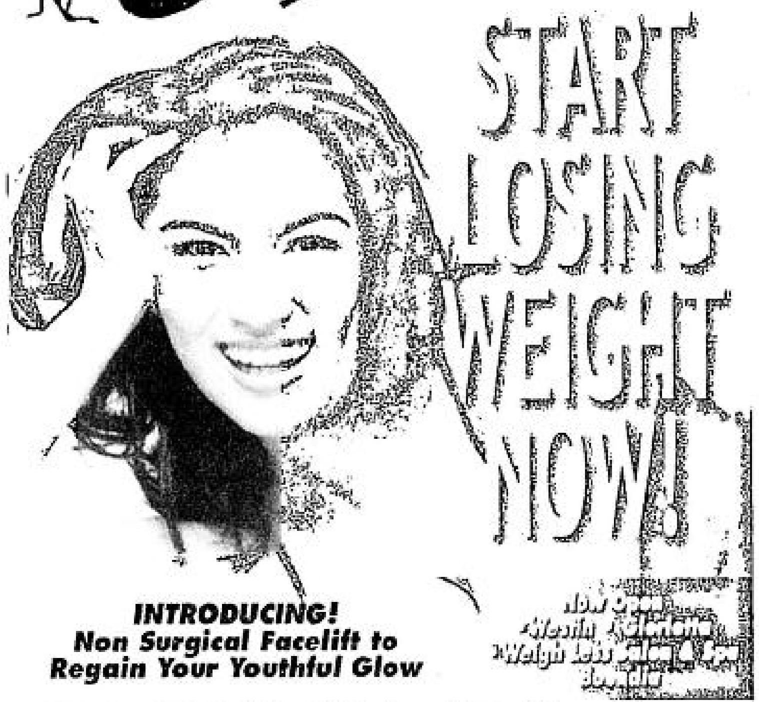
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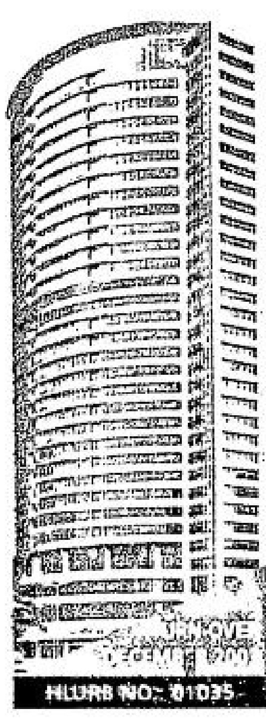

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Austere film technique affects even musical extravaganza

By Constantino C. Tejero

MANY film enthusiasts haven't realized that the much-ballyhoed Dogma 95 was meant as a joke.

Eight years ago, Danish filmmakers Lars von Trier and Thomas Vinterberg came up with 10 rules on how a film should be made. Soon two colleagues, Søren Kragh-Jacobsen and Kristian Levring, joined them, and the hottest movement in recent cinema was born.

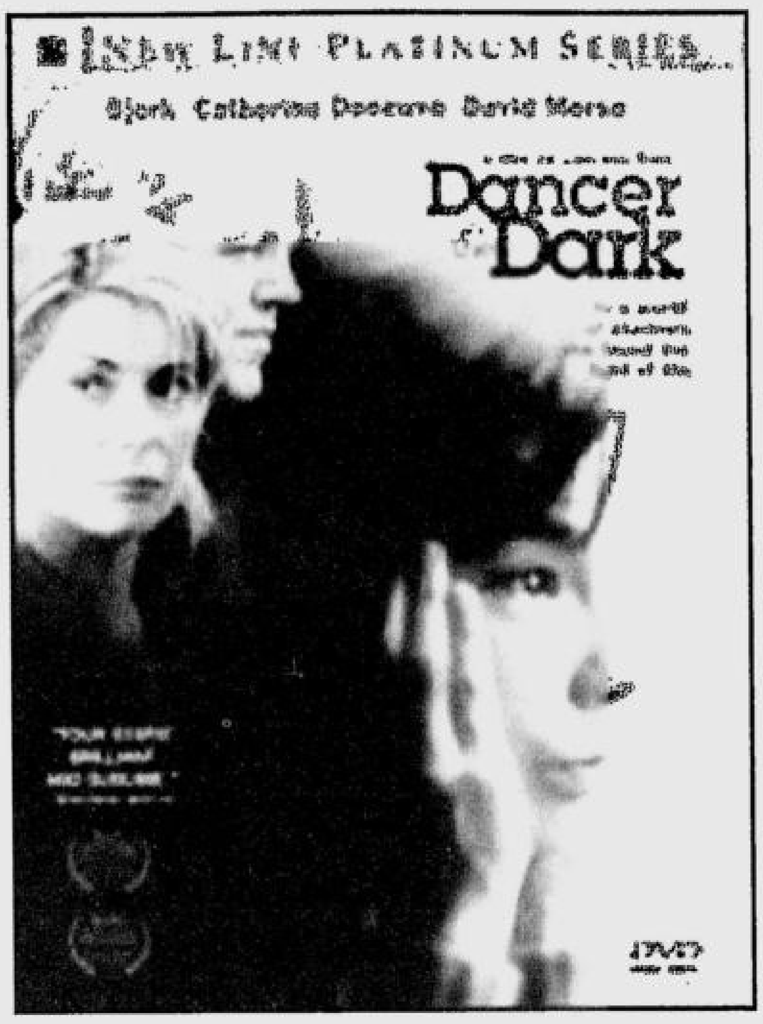
It actually started as a "casual, slightly tipsy rant" against the big-budget Hollywood blockbuster. The rules, reportedly jotted down in 30 minutes, were conceived in jest as a reaction to the illusionist movies churned out by Hollywood.

"We just listed all the things we hated about modern cinema," Vinterberg said in The Economist.

The rules are as follows:

1. Shooting must be done on location; props must not be brought in.
2. The sound and images must never be produced separately.
3. The camera must be handheld.
4. The film must be in color.
5. Optical work and filters are forbidden.
6. The film must not contain superficial action or violence.
7. The film must take place in the here and now.
8. Genre movies are not acceptable.
9. The film format must be Academy 35 mm.
10. The director must not be credited.

Film Quarterly described this as "an obsessive commitment to strip away from film culture the current overlay of kitsch technology and paraphernalia and to counter the film illusion by the presentation of an indisputable set of rules."



The hottest movement in recent cinema was born as a reaction to the illusionist movies of Hollywood

BJÖRK captured in giant closeup, in the tradition of the great faces of the screen

As summarized by Time, this means: no wide screen; no flashbacks; no post-synchronizing of dialogue; no musical scoring; no camera tripod; no visual tricks; no artificial lighting; no prosthetics; no special effects; no makeup artist and costume mistress (actors must do their own makeup and wear their own clothes).

Searing images

Some find it a radical move on the part of those Scandinavian filmmakers, but it's really a reactionary movement. It is less a battle cry to march forward than a call to step back, to a time when cinema was young. It's a kind of primitivism, retrogressive as it were.

In fact, Film Quarterly found it just a repetition of the manifestoes of Italian Neorealism and the French New Wave.

The first Dogma film ever made was Vinterberg's "Festen" (The Celebration). This was followed by Von Trier's "The Idiots," then Kragh-Jacobsen's "Mifune" and Levring's "The King Is Alive."

To date, only five or six films have been made strictly under the Dogma decalogue. So far, only two have been screened in the country: "Festen" at Cine Europa and "The King Is Alive" at Art Film in the Glorietta.

Those were powerful films which seared the screen with their dramatic tension, if not their unusual look. The images seemed to disintegrate in acid, and the violence was mostly psychological and emotional.

(We were happy to note that these films played to appreciative audiences in Manila. "Festen" is an all-time favorite of ours, and "The King Is Alive" is considered by Film Quarterly the best Dogma production to date.)

Ironically, Hollywood moguls were fascinated, and even Hollywood prince Steven Spielberg toyed with the idea of making a film under the Dogma rules. So there came out Dogma wannabes such as Harmony Korine's "Julien Donkey-Boy" and Steven Soderbergh's "Full Frontal."

But those were half-baked endeavors, as they violated many of the rules. The rules are quite rigid; even the Scandinavians couldn't always go by them, and thus merrily violated one rule after another.

It should be noted, though, that Von Trier's earlier "Breaking the Waves" and recent "Dancer in the Dark," both Cannes winners, were not made in the Dogma mode. They contain seeds of the movement, yes, but at the same time accommodate elements of Hollywood illusionism.

(The two films are linked by the theme of martyrdom. Also, what the filmmaker has done with the face of Emily Watson in the first he does with Björk's in the second—faces alternating between anguish and bliss captured in giant closeups filling the screen. The reference, of course, is Carl Dreyer's "The Passion of Joan of Arc," with the great face of Maria Falconetti dominating the screen.)

ALTERNATING between anguish and bliss

Unconventional way

In technique, one may compare "Dancer in the Dark" with recent Hollywood musicals like "Moulin Rouge" and "Chicago," not to mention a Bollywood movie like "Lagaan," and see how highly unconventional it is as a film musical.

For instance, unlike the grand pastiche of "Moulin Rouge," its musical numbers naturally spring from the story, illuminate the psychology of the characters, and actually advance the plot. And unlike the others, the emotional uplift of its song-and-dance routine is not achieved the conventional way.

Instead, to capture the excitement of old-style musicals without resorting to camera tricks or sleight-of-hand editing, which Dogma filmmakers find unnatural, Von Trier would compose the scenes with images taken from multiple angles by some 100 cameras (shooting the equivalent of 20 full-length features).

During the making of the film, he revealed in Sight and Sound: "The whole thing was to work like a broadcast, a direct transmission of a performance... Most of the best numbers from classic musicals were filmed with a highly mobile camera. But I'm at a stage in my life where I've had enough of elegant camera movements.

"If I was going to film a musical in the classic mode, it would be with a camera crane and dolly and very sophisticated camera choreography, with song-and-dance numbers that had to be performed in a studio. But I don't want that now. So it felt important to film these scenes exclusively in fixed images, to underplay the musical feeling."

At first we thought "Dancer in the Dark" would be another European unemployment saga like the Belgian film "Rosetta," until we saw those musical numbers, particularly that soaring moment on the railroad tracks, the romantic *danse macabre* of the murdered and the murderer, and the march to the gallows.

Naturally, the reactions of the audience are extreme. Either they shout at the screen after the screening, or tap-dance their way to the exit.

Ma-yi's 'Magno Rubio' redefines triumph . . .

From page E1

legiance. Or he is either imprisoned, swindled or beaten up, without so much as a centavo in his pocket as he faces his shocked relatives.

The New-York-based Ma-Yi Theater Company, composed of Filipinos and Fil-Ams, resolves its hero's dilemma somewhere in between.

The lonely illiterate farm worker may not have gotten the gold and the girl (who turns out to be a dupe), but he gains something more precious. And that makes him a winner.

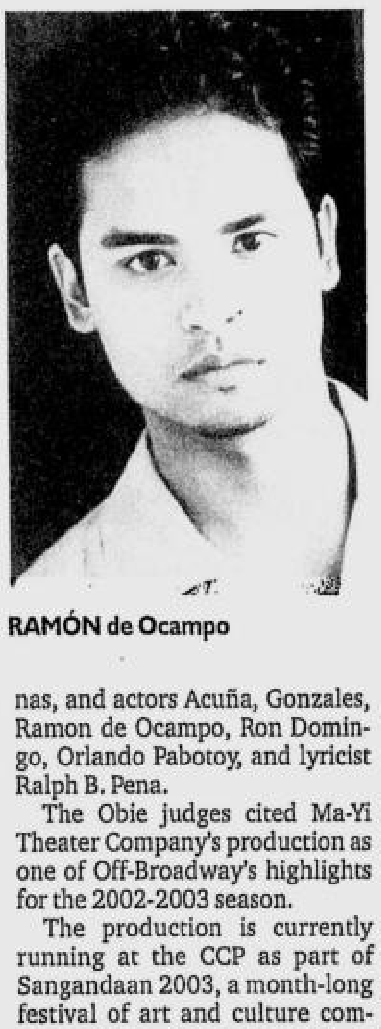
Jojo Gonzales, the actor who plays the main character, puts it this way: "He maintains his resilience, dignity and strength of character. He doesn't measure his success on money as well—and that's what keeps him going.

"[The play] is more than just about Magno Rubio. It's about the first wave of the *manongs* or plantation workers and their dreams. It's about not reaching that dream but not giving up. That's how they became victorious, because, in spite of the difficulties, they stayed."

Human condition

Art Acuña, who plays the narrator Nick, points out that "Magno exists within the human heart. It's that human condition that is pretty blind, pretty stupid but determined, hoping for the best, and in the end is victorious."

Based on a short story by Carlos Bulosan, "Magno Rubio" has racked up a string of impressive victories itself. At the 48th Annual Obie Awards last May 19, it won the awards for playwright Lonnie Carter, director Loy Arcenas, and actors Acuña, Gonzales, Ramon de Ocampo, Ron Domingo, Orlando Pabotoy, and lyricist Ralph B. Pena.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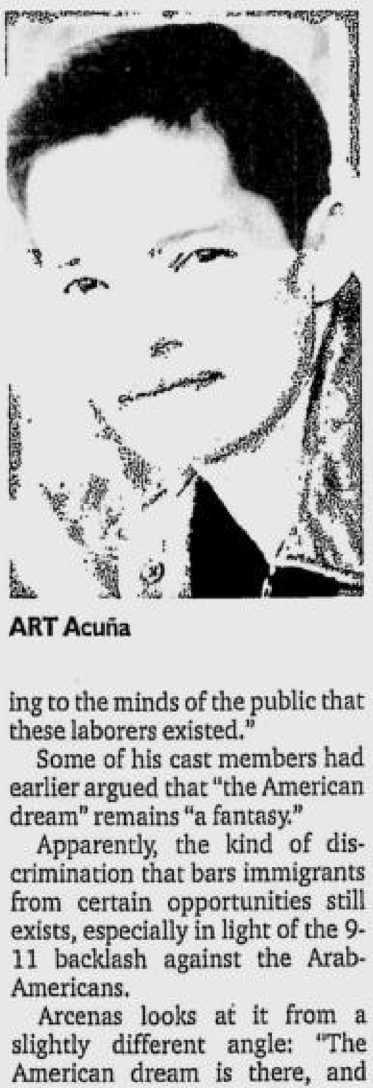
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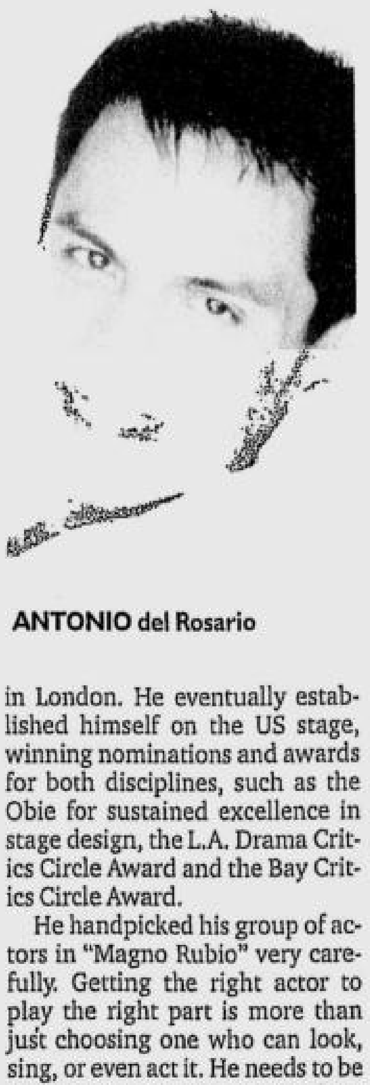

ANTONIO del Rosario

The Obie judges cited Ma-Yi Theater Company's production as one of Off-Broadway's highlights for the 2002-2003 season.

The production is currently running at the CCP as part of Sangandaan 2003, a month-long festival of art and culture commemorating the centennial of the Filipino-American war and a hundred years of Fil-Am relations.

Arcenas (who also directed Ralph Pena's "Flipzoids" and Han Ong's "Middle Finger") was drawn to the material because it "told stories of a specific class, the workers. It's a good way to bring them into American literature and American drama, and opening to the minds of the public that these laborers existed."

Some of his cast members had earlier argued that "the American dream" remains "a fantasy."

Apparently, the kind of discrimination that bars immigrants from certain opportunities still exists, especially in light of the 9-11 backlash against the Arab-Americans.

Arcenas looks at it from a slightly different angle: "The American dream is there, and what is it but that people can go to the US and hope [for a better life]? But some are luckier than others because they are more prepared. We need stories like this to remind us that the only thing a man has is his dignity. It is an uplifting story."

The designer-director left the country in 1976 to study drama in London. He eventually established himself on the US stage, winning nominations and awards for both disciplines, such as the Obie for sustained excellence in stage design, the L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award and the Bay Critics Circle Award.

He handpicked his group of actors in "Magno Rubio" very carefully. Getting the right actor to play the right part is more than just choosing one who can look, sing, or even act it. He needs to be able to connect in a very deep way with the text.

"You have to have the soul. Just because you can sing the notes, do the moves, or look good doesn't mean that you can do the role. You have to be able to give life to the text. This is why auditions are very, very important. You give actors a piece of text and make them say it. For every 10 actors, you get 10 different variations. You choose the actors that make the words come alive."

Not color

It's no accident that the actors in "Magno Rubio" are Philippine-born or are actual Fil-Am. Again, it's not just a matter of color. Language plays a significant part on how the actor connects to the piece or misses it entirely.

"I'm not talking about pronunciation," Arcenas clarifies. "There's a way to saying the piece that makes it come alive. If the language is not your first, the way you say the piece becomes different."

One example was his experience watching an American company's production of Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure."

"I had just moved from London, and 'Measure' was one of the few Shakespearean plays I was not familiar with. For the first 20 minutes of the play, I simply could not understand it. The actors were very, very good but the stresses [on the language] were wrong. Part of Shakespeare is the musicality [of the language] which creates the ideas for the play.

"Afterwards, I listened to the classic British recording with Vanessa Redgrave and Ralph Richardson. This time, I understood everything—and I was just listening at that time, I was not reading the verses. What was the difference? It was the way the record sounded—the text made sense."

So does that mean that actors are limited to playing only characters in their nationalities? Meaning, American actors can only play American roles, British actors can only do British parts, and Filipino actors should only stick to Filipino-language material?

The cultural-cum-linguistic crossover is "not impossible, just difficult," opines Arcenas. "You'd have to be a very good actor. It's a gift, not necessarily a matter of time [in cultural immersion]. Some actors have it that even with their accents, [the material] works."

Interestingly, the director is hoping for his own brand of theatrical cultural crossover one of these days. While the more visible, more successful Manila theater companies mount English-language plays that are either foreign classics or new ones written by local playwrights.

Arcenas contemplates creating on the New York stage plays based on Filipino literature like Nick Joaquin's works or Orlando Nadres' "Paraisong Parisukat."

The source and setting may be Filipino in origin, but the themes and the plights of the characters are universal. "You can compare Chekhov's 'Three Sisters' to the shoe-store sales ladies in 'Parisukat.' People can relate to these women because they want to claw out of their circumstances."

"There is an audience for this," he adds. "All you need is an interesting story to tell and that it be told well."

"The Romance of Magno Rubio" runs at the CCP until July 27. Call 832-1125.

THE PINOY blues singer in a jam session

Lampano album out; limited performances

ALTHOUGH the band never really left, the Lampano Alley is back in the live music scene for limited reunion performances. The gigs are timed with the brief vacation from the United States of vocalist Binky Lampano—he with the distinct, inimitable and much-praised voice.

The band is the leading proponent of blues music in the country—perhaps even in Asia—and they are marking the reunion with the release of a debut album titled "Songs from the Alley," which is selling for only P250 in Mag:net stores (tel. 410-0995). "We are not making money [but] we do hope to make history," says Lampano.

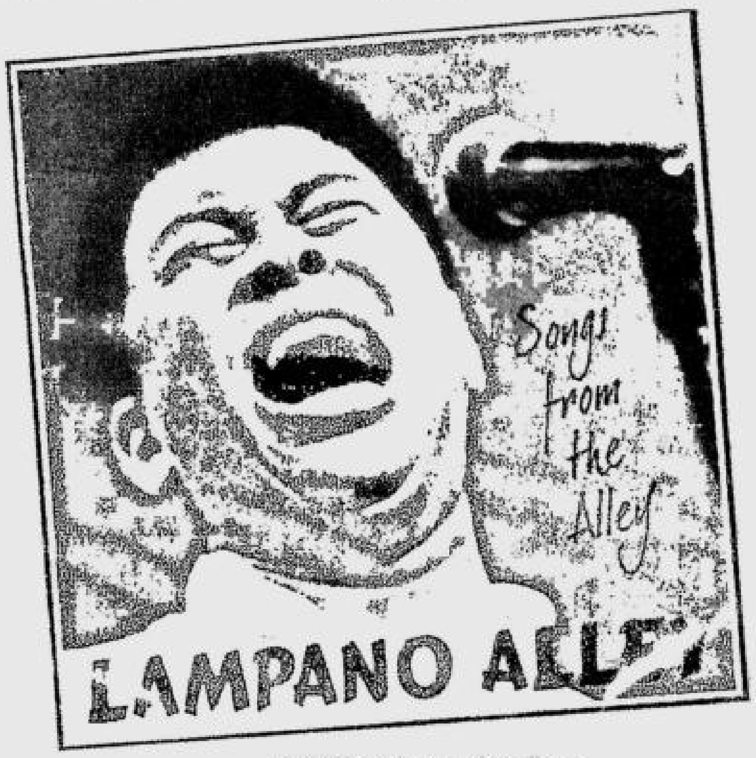
The songs were mostly recorded and mixed in 2000. The album's release was put on hold after Lampano moved to the US to look after his ailing father. Realizing that it was impossible to support a family on musician's wages in the Philippines, he applied for a scholarship in Los Angeles, where he is currently studying for a business degree.

Lampano Alley will be performing until mid-August, with Paolo Manuel stepping into the drum chair and joining original bandmates like guitarist Edwin Vergara, bassist Simon Tan and harmonica player "Tomcat" Colvin.

"Songs from the Alley" contains the carrier singles "You've Got a Hold on Me" and "Ganyan Lang."

Lampano Alley will have reunion performances on July 23 (Kid Creole; 3/F Greenbelt 3); Aug. 1 and 7 (Hobbit House, A. Mabini Street, Malate. Call 833-6054 or e-mail lampano@mail2blues .com).

BINKY Lampano



COVER of the reunion album

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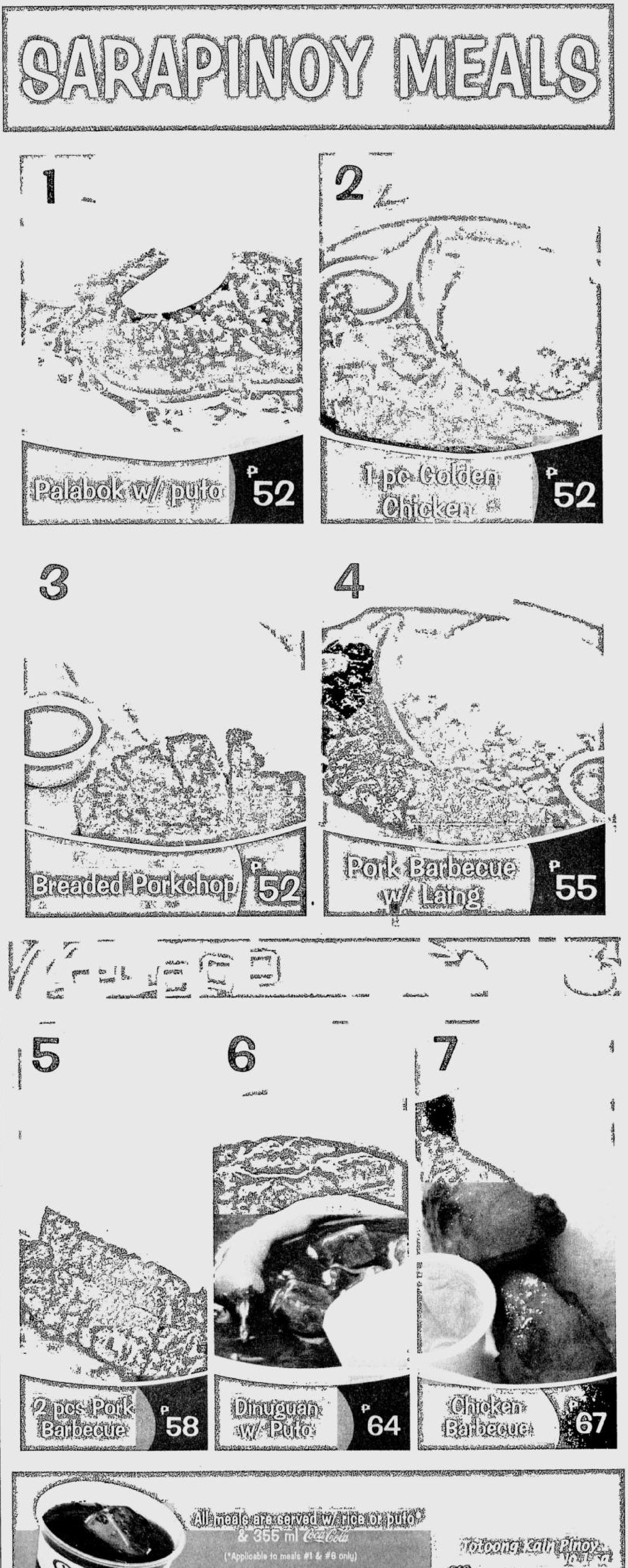

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Ballet Manila stages 'OPM at OPB'

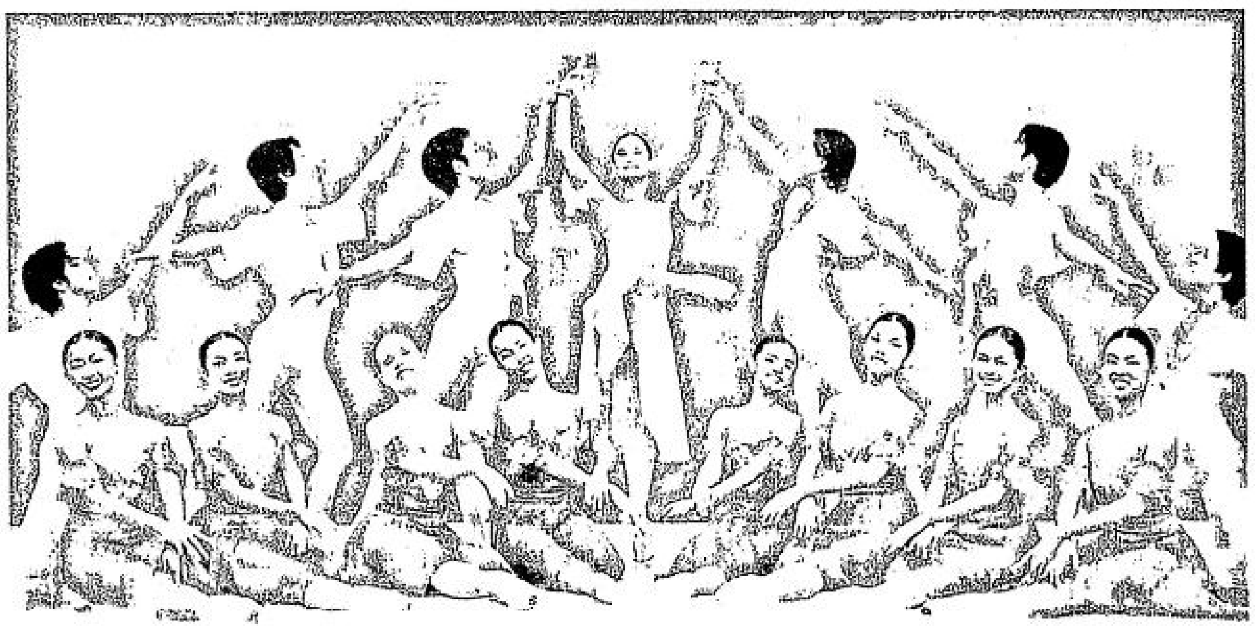
BALLET Manila's second season offering, "OPM at OPB," features ballerinas wearing Auggie Cordero formal Filipiniana gowns, a highlight from "The Mask of the Red Death," urban Filipinos fighting smog and crab mentality to the music of Joey Ayala, an eagle soaring and a right-of-passage solo designed for ballet competitions in Tokyo and New York.

IN TONY Fabella's "Dalagang Pilipina.": (From left) Gabrielle Quinto, Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, Elline Damian and Gabrielle Conde

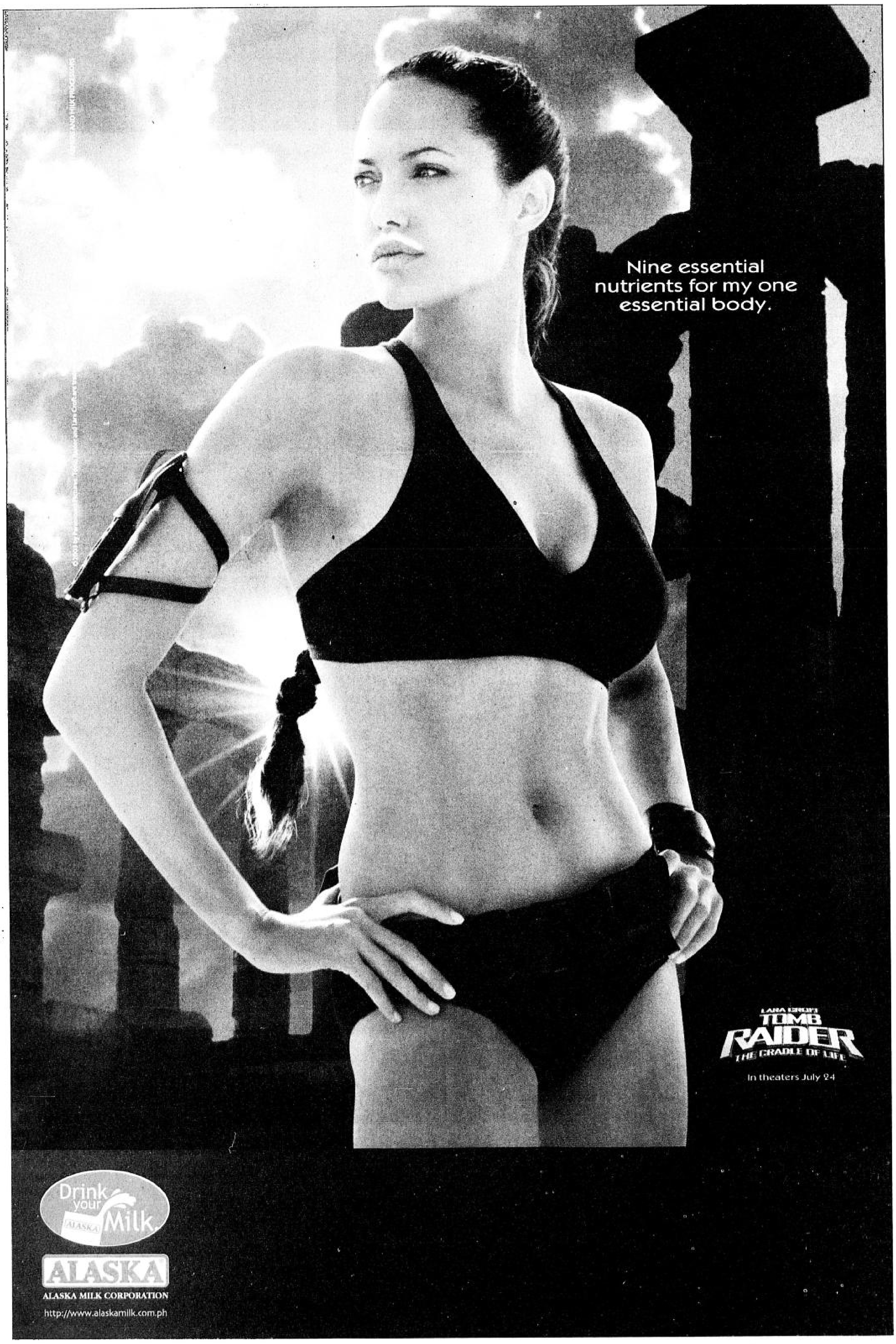
First designed to feature original Filipino music and original Filipino ballets, OPM (Original Pilipino Music) at OPB (Original Pilipino Ballet) brings together in one show ballets from noted choreographers Agnes Locsin, Tony Fabella, David Campos Cantero, Gerardo Francisco and the late Eric V. Cruz.

Artistic director Lisa Macuja Elizalde introduces a younger generation of Ballet Manila soloists and demi-soloists in these concerts, many of whom are joining international ballet competitions and festivals.

Performances will be on July 25-27 and Aug. 1-3 in the Star Theater, Star City, Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex, Roxas Blvd. For inquiries, please call Bugs or Joyce at 404-3086; 400-0292; 525-5967; 523-6510.



LISA Macuja-Elizalde leads the Ballet Manila dancers in Tony Fabella's" Dancing to Verdi"



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Ateneo Writers Workshop now accepting submissions

THE ATENEO Institute for Literary Arts and Practices (Ailap) is now accepting applications for the 3rd Ateneo National Writers Workshop to be held Oct 21-25.

Each applicant must submit a portfolio of works containing any one of the following: five poems; three short stories; or two one-act plays, written in Filipino or in English; together with a title page containing the author's pseudonym and a table of contents.

The portfolio must also be accompanied by a diskette containing a file of the document(s) saved in Rich Text Format (rtf).

All submissions must also include a sealed envelope containing the author's real name, address, contact number, and one-page biodata with a 1x1 ID picture attached to it.

Twelve fellows will be chosen from all over the country. Food and lodging accommodations will be provided.

Entries must be addressed to: Dr. Benilda Santos, The Director, Ateneo National Writers Workshop, c/o the Filipino Department, Horacio de la Costa Hall, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Deadline of submissions is on Aug 18.

For inquiries, please contact Jayson Jacobo, the workshop coordinator, at 426-6001 local 5320 - 5322.

The houses we inhabit

A National Artist writes a highly uncharacteristic whodunit

The Builder
By Edith L. Tiempo
Anvil Publishing
144 pages, 2003

By Vicente Garcia Groyon
Contributor

REVIEW

THE IDEA is attractive and intriguing in itself: a "literary" writer, honored as a National Artist, takes on a "popular" genre. Since the writer is the gentle, genteel Edith L. Tiempo of Dumaguete City, and the genre is the detective novel, comparisons with Agatha Christie and Ngaio Marsh are inevitable, and expectations are raised: How will she reinvent the genre while remaining true to it?

This slim novel is, to all appearances, a whodunit, and like others in that genre, its primary concern is the restoration of order in a world thrown into disequilibrium by a murder. The return to order, the sense of justice being served, is signified by the capture and/or punishment of the murderer.

Justice is also Tiempo's concern, but it becomes clear as the novel progresses and draws to its elegiac finish that its author is after a far more complex sense of justice and order.

The plot unfolds with the purity of a murder mystery: Valeria Bituan-Uy, Physics graduate student in Dumaguete City, is brutally killed in broad daylight in front of her professor, Felix Acuña, who is immediately drawn to solving the case. The killer, recognizing him as an eyewitness, turns him into a kind of accomplice by making threatening phone calls, which ultimately have the effect of drawing Acuña over to his side.

Meanwhile, Acuña is preoccupied with his wife's pregnancy, the building of his home, and the shepherding of the university owner's wayward son towards the succession of his father as university president.

Readers expecting a mere whodunit may be disappointed at the

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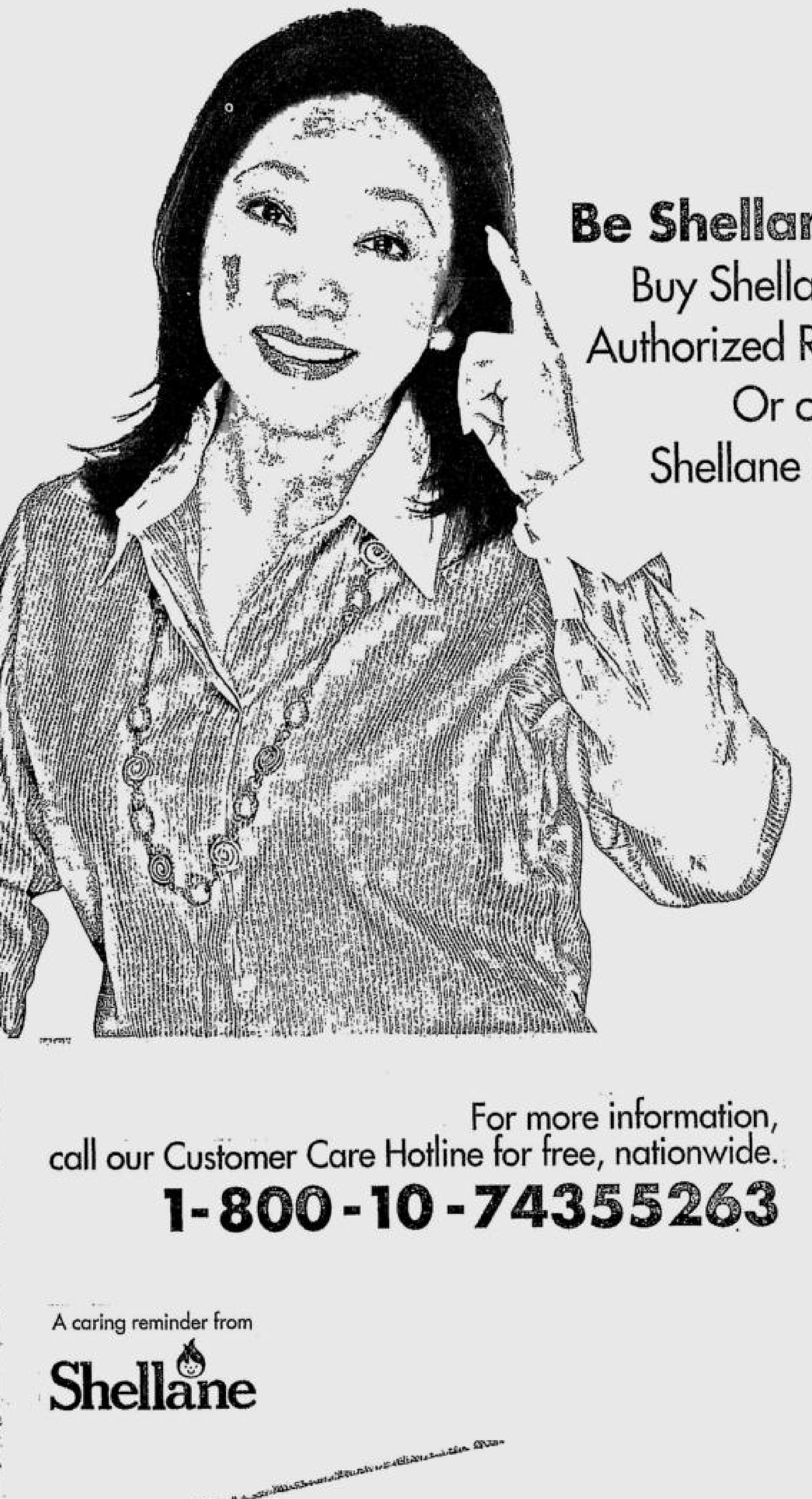

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ACTING Civilian Military Operations Director Capt. Dante Mirambil with FWWPP's Maritz Resol. Capt. Mirambil landed his MG520 attack helicopter a few minutes before this photo was taken.

PANTAY Pinugay's pupils now have reason to celebrate: their school already owns the land it occupies.

Edsa heroes join the Revolution

By Butch Hernandez
Contributor

THE FOUNDATION for Worldwide People Power warmly welcomes its newest trustee, Mr. Panfilo O. Domingo.

P.O. Domingo is board chair and CEO of the University of the East, the UE Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, the UE Foundation for Research and Advanced Studies and the Allied Banking Corporation as well as vice-chair and executive director of the Tan Yan Kee Foundation.

Domingo commands the respect and admiration of international finance. He has occupied senior executive positions in various corporations and has routinely handled sensitive, high-level financial negotiations for the Philippine government.

He assumed the presidency of a severely stagnating Philippine National Bank in 1972. He quickly proved himself by bringing PNB back on its feet during his first 100 days of office. During Domingo's 10-year presidency of the PNB, the bank never incurred any losses.

Domingo's impressive personal achievements carry great significance for the Education Revolution because he is an outstanding alumnus of the Tarlac High School, a public school.

Making waves

Last summer, as part of its Education Revolution program, the Women Always Vigilant for Excellence (Wave), which counts Cora, Norma and Marita Tanjuatco as members, built a new classroom for Pantay Pinugay.

The Pantay Pinugay Elementary School stands on Tanjuatco property.

Recently, 91-year old Don Igmidio Tanjuatco, together with Cora and Marita and Wave members Chit Herbosa, Mariz Del Rosario, Rosie Osmeña Valencia and Elo Fernan, motored to Morong, Rizal to formally donate the lot to the extremely grateful pupils and teachers.

Buoyed by their success at Pantay Pinugay, Rosie Osmeña Valencia, her daughter Mariza del Rosario and Elo Fernan have requested FWWPP community development consultant Beth Cabuguas to help them start an Education Revolution program in their home province of Cebu.

Congratulations, Wave ladies.

Air Force adopts schools

At 5:15 a.m. on Feb. 24, 1986, Col. Antonio Sotelo and the men of the elite 15th Strike Wing of the Philippine Air Force took off in five Sikorsky helicopter gunships from Villamor Airbase and headed for Camp Crame to join 300 rebel soldiers backed by the million-strong People Power to finally topple the Marcos Dictatorship.

The flight of the Sikorskys was perhaps one of the most dramatic moments of the Edsa Revolution. From then on, the 15th Strike Wing came to be called "Liberators".

Today, the 15th Strike Wing is based at the Major Danilo S. Atienza Air Base in Sangley Point, Cavite City. They are still the premiere combat unit of the Philippine Air Force, but they also have a nurturing and caring side.

Capt. Dante Mirambil, the acting director for civil-military operations, and M/Sgt. Danilo Sindac visited the FWWPP to tell us about the 15th Strike Wing's Adopt-A-School /Adopt-A-Barangay project, which was started in 2002.

Mirambil, who had been a social worker before he became a pilot, said that they wanted to link up with the Education Revolution so they could expand their development efforts for the civilian communities in and around the air base.

Sindac had actually called the FWWPP last year after reading about the Revolution in this paper.

He and Capt. Mirambil said that so far, the 15th Strike Wing has adopted five public schools: Sangley Point Elementary School, Manuel Roxas Elementary School, Ladislao Diwa Elementary School, Julian Felipe Elementary School and the Sangley Point National High School.

Beth Cabuguas and Maritz Resol of the FWWPP visited the 15th Strike Wing recently to see the adopted schools.

Captain Mirambil arranged for them to meet Cavite City Schools Division superintendent Dr. Nilda Dator and District II supervisor Dr. Ching Arevalo.

The author is the executive director of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power

DR. Ching Arevalo, DepEd District II supervisor

CAVITE City Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Nilda Dator

PUP'S DR. OFELIA MORABE-CARAGUE

Shining legacy of a woman university president

By Rustica C. Carpio
Contributor

IT IS said that retirement is but a sweet return—a return to many beautiful things left unfinished, a return to a less hectic schedule, a return to domestic concerns, a return to a more relaxed life.

For Dr. Ofelia Morabe-Carague, retirement is a recapitulation of a most fruitful life, one that has touched the lives of teachers, nonacademic employees, and students.

Carague is the 10th president of the biggest university in the country, the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), which has over 50,000 students in Manila and in different parts of the country. She is set to end her term of office of four years. So when the PUP, also known as "People's University," celebrates its centennial in 2004, Dr. Carague will no longer be the conductor of a symphony of people and events principally started during her term.

But being a loyal alumna of the state university where she finished her master's and doctorate in Business Administration, she promises to continue lending a helping hand to PUP.

Dr. Carague will leave behind a set of still-viable goals and objectives, which she has thoughtfully elucidated upon during her incumbency. These concerns basically center on the improvement of the quality of students, faculty, administrative staff, school facilities, distance education and leadership.

Vision-driven

Now, at 65, Dr. Carague has articulated a vision that seeks to improve the quality of life of students, particularly those who lack acces to high-cost education.

Carague can only empathize with the struggles of poor people seeking good education. Her own life has been checkered by storms and stresses, which however have given her the mettle of steel, the stamina of a bull, and the moral courage of a St. Thomas More, the statesman, writer, and saint.

Carague bequeaths to PUP a legacy that is vision-driven. It helps that the legacy is very visible in new buildings, new departments and colleges, and a renovated campus.

Carague started as a part-time faculty member in 1970 (at that time, PUP was known as the Philippine College of Commerce). She became a teacher full time the following year. By 1977, she was already working out donations of state-of-the-art instructional equipment and facilities to PUP.

CARAGUE

She was then appointed chair of the Electronic Data Processing Department, and afterward, officer-in-charge of the non-degree programs. She became the first dean of the College of Computer Management and Information Technology.

In 1988, she became vice-president for academic affairs. In 1993, she was named executive vice-president and concurrent officer-in-charge of the branches and extension services of PUP.

During her stewardship, many of the PUP Open University centers were established nationwide. Finally, in 1998, she rose to the position of president, the very first to pass through the requirements of Republic Act 8292, which sets rigid screening for top officials of state colleges and universities.

Pioneer of IT education

Caraguе was behind the construction of the Mass Communication Building along Anonas St near Sta. Mesa in 1994 (the building was conceptualized by this writer and initially funded by a law sponsored by Sen. Orlando S. Mercado.based on her position paper).

Carague also was behind the reconstruction of the High School Laboratory Building, which had been gutted by fire in 1994, the rebuilding of the Student Center, the rehabilitation of the University Inter-Faith Chapel in 1996, the completion of the PUP Grandstand in 2001, the restoration of the Gymnasium, and the construction of the Information Communication Technology Building in 2001.

Carague has also modernized office processes, adopted new salary credit data, increased the benefits of faculty members, and sourced out more scholarship grants from both local and foreign donors.

Under Carague, PUP was recognized by the Commission on Higher Education as a Center of Excellence in Information Technology. In fact, Carague is one of the country's pioneers in IT education; her accomplishment is part of the country's history of communications.

When the PUP's College of Languages and Mass Communications became the College of Communication and the College of Languages and Linguistics two years ago, Dr. Carague stressed the impact of information and communication technology on education.

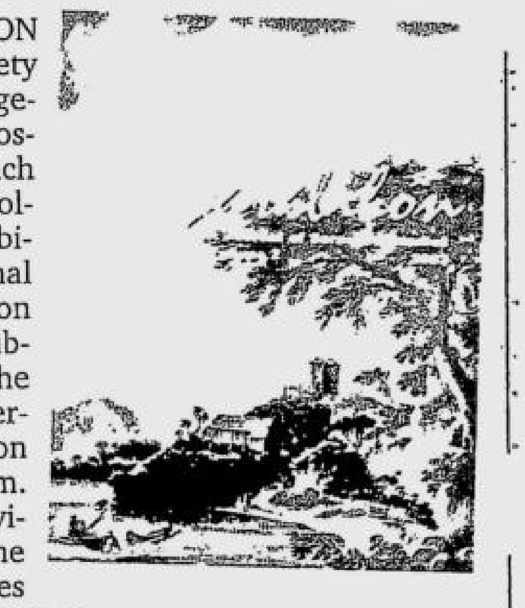
"Rapid developments in ICT," she said, "have led educational institutions around the world to consider ICT's involvement with the learning process."

Spouse to Dr. Guillermo N. Carague, the former budget secretary, and mother to Bernard, Anne and Patrick, Ofelia Carague, or "Bebot" as she is fondly called, is not easy to describe.

But friends and supporters can only agree with Dr. Amalia Cullarin-Rosales, dean of PUP's College of Arts who has worked closely with her, when she says:

"Dr. Carague is a woman who thinks ahead of her time, She is a very dynamic person whom I consider a real human dynamo. She is a workaholic whose passion to accomplish great things is contaminating. Indefatigable, innovative, imaginative are the adjectives which best describe her as a leader. She is a sincere and honest lady, and her sincerity and honesty are, I believe, the virtues which impressed the screening committee for the search of a PUP president more than four years ago."

Sorsogon journal to be launched



THE SORSOGON Heritage Society headed by Eugenia Duran-Apostol will launch the second volume of "Sarabihon," a journal of Sorsogon studies published by the Sorsogon Heritage Society, on July 26 at 3 p.m. at the audio-visual room of the Social Sciences Bldg of the Ateneo de Manila University.

Also to be launched is "Feast of the Innocents," a novel by Bikol novelist Azucena Grajo Uranza.

The Society is an academic and cultural group composed of Sorsogon writers and researchers that conducts research on all aspects of Sorsogon culture.

Edited by Teresita E. Ercstain, Vol. II of Sarabihon offers a varied selection of studies on Sorsogon.

Maria Lourdes de Vera writes on "Landscape and History: A Meditation on Brambila's Vista del Puerto de Sorsogon"; Henry Totanes has a paper on "American-Sponsored Public Schools in Kabikolan: Sorsogon, 1901-1921"; Walter Espinocilla writes "Political Palaver", a personal account of the brand of politics of Teodoro de Vera; Francisco Datar writes on the "Sociocultural Strategies for Coping with Seasonal Hunger in a Magallanes Vilage"; and Azucena Uranza writes on the Sorsogon *zarzuela*.

The journal also includes the annual report of the first governor of Sorsogon, Bernardino Monreal in 1902, and Sandy Diez's essay, "Sorsogon Serenata," a coverage of the music camp conducted by the UST Conservatory of Music in Sorsogon.

Four poems by Sorsogon poets Gregorio Estananto, Isidoro Dino, Gaudencio Bataller, and Rommel Habitchuela made it to the journal, as well as a Bikol rawit-dawit by an anonymous Juban poet.

Three essayists, Reynaldo Jamoralin, Elmer Ordonez and Olivia Tripon, have personal essays containing their reminiscences of Sorsogon. And there is a three-act zarzuela written in Bikol by Jose Figueroa.

Sarabihan comes out annually. Copies may be obtained from any of the members of the Society or at their office at Rm. 400-D Delta Building, West Avenue, Quezon City. Call 373-0810.

Garbage in, garbage art

By Lisa Ito
Contributor

Pete Jimenez displays how steel discards can be turned into something moving and artistic in a show at Mag:net

RUSTY discards and abandoned refuse can exhibit aesthetic appeal, as Pete Jimenez's works are out to prove. Producing sculptures of various sizes from scrap metal and spare parts collected throughout Quezon City's junk shops, the artist now unveils his most recent series of assembled steel sculptures in "Steel," his third solo exhibit.

The show features freestanding large-scale sculptures as well as smaller wall works, all produced from discarded metal parts. Unlike other steel sculptures which readily convey the impersonal aura of machination, his works resemble organic configurations. They shift one's conception of steel as being rigidly static in form, and instead reveal how scrap metal may come to simulate aquatic, floral or faunal shapes if worked on sufficiently.

Jimenez has a penchant for finding exquisite forms in what others dismiss as garbage—such as old chains, piping, large glass marbles, and objects such as branding iron—and assembling them to form the most unlikely of objects. The artist describes this as a process of spontaneously creating from whatever materials are available and what forms are initially discerned in these.

The large-scale freestanding work "Giraffe," for instance, is a non-representational allusion to the animal produced out of three columns made of shaped steel rod pieces attached from end to end. Towering up to the gallery ceiling, it exhibits an uneasy sense of fragility and balance despite the strength of the material. Another large work, "Chairman of the Board," is his figurative and literal representation of a high-chair precariously held together by a balance of its forms.

New developments

Jimenez's works in "Steel" contain new developments in his personal artistic preferences. He, for instance, now creates a series of life-size pieces as compared to his small wall works of the previous years.

His production of small works, however, continues up to the present, such as his series derived from American cartoons and animation. Works such as "Mickey Mouse" and "Batman Returns" are not literal descriptions of these characters, but they contain visual allusions to their characteristics. In the former, for instance, he attaches two large discarded chain links to a rusty mug and covers them with dark lacquer—a reference to the character's large ears. Other small works represent organic forms, such as "Fight Club," a swarm of butterflies implied by a composition of chain links, and "Black Forest."

Interestingly , his materials have their own history as objects, such as in the case of "Ursula," which was assembled from a squid-like scrap object that turned out to be a spent mortal shell during the war.

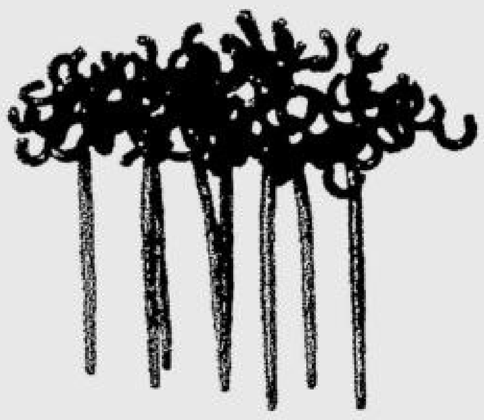
Jimenez started out as a painter during his years at the UP College of Fine Arts, but gradually veered toward sculpture in the past two decades. While he did produce abstract three-dimensional forms in hardwood as a student, Jimenez soon discovered an affinity for metal as a material, creating sculptures out of this medium for his past two solo shows.

He then went into the frenzied world of advertising. His use of relatively faster techniques in sculpture, such as welding and assemblage (as opposed to modeling or casting), enabled him to consistently produce his art works during weekend breaks from work.

Jimenez was a regional finalist in the Art Association of the Philippines National Centennial Art Competition in 1998. As an advertising practitioner and commercial director, he won the Gold and Silver Awards for Best Animation (Asean Category) at the 2nd and 3rd Malaysian Video Awards. Jimenez also garnered the Best in Art Direction (Araw TV Crafstmanship Award) at the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress in 2001.

"Steel" opens on July 24, 6.30 p.m., at the Mag:net Gallery in The Loop (ABS-CBN Compound), Quezon City. It runs up to Aug. 10. Call 410-0995 or e-mail magnet@info.com.ph

"ANIMAL Logic," by Pete Jimenez


"BLACK Forest"

National Museum holds exhibits on RP-US ties

SANGANDAAN 2003 highlights the arts and media produced by Filipinos, Americans and Filipino-Americans in the course of the RP-US relations from 1899 to 2002.

The National Museum participates in Sangandaan, ongoing until the end of the month, with three exhibitions.

Open to the public until Sept. 15 at the Museum of the Filipino People are:

"Art Moves: Trends and Forms During the American Period and Beyond," an exhibition of paintings and sculpture dating from the early years of the American regime to the '60s, at the South Wing gallery, ground floor.

"Behind Camera Lens," an exhibition of images selected and reproduced from the photography collections of Jonathan Best, John Silva and the Thurlow Family of Berkeley, California, USA, on view at the East Wing gallery on the fifth floor.

"The Moro Campaigns: Images of America's Untold War," photographs from the collection of Braulio L. Agudelo, also on view at the East Wing gallery.

The exhibits are open Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Museum of the Filipino People is at the T. Valencia Circle, Rizal Park, Manila. Call 527-0278 or the museum guide on duty at 524-3005, or e-mail museumph@info.comp.ph

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Quality is a detail we take very seriously.
HCG

years

Beyond standards.

In surpassing previous standards of quality, design and durability, we are now the leader in just five years!

HISTORY AND HERITAGE

In 1931, HCG opened its doors with a vision for a future driven by never-ending innovation and the pursuit of excellence. For more than seventy years, since its inception, HCG has exemplified its founder's deep passion for artistry and fine detail. It has indoctrinated the mission of its founder to continuously innovate the Hi-tech production process, to design Compact bathroom fixtures that complement stylish bathrooms, and to achieve Globalization by serving people closely and promptly.

In order to serve valuable customers closely, HCG-Philippines was formed in 1995 between HCG-Taiwan and Filipino-owned giant developer, Filinvest Corporation. This partnership invested 45 million US dollars to put up the largest manufacturing plant of bathroom fixtures in the Philippines located on a ten-hectare property at the First Cavite Industrial Estate (FCIE) in Dasmariñas, Cavite with a rated plant capacity of 840,000 pieces annually.

Today's HCG, a world leader in kitchen and bathroom fixtures, continues to uphold the belief that vision is the key to success. Long before other manufacturers thought to explore one-piece water closets, HCG was perfecting the designs. While others were scrambling to meet quality certifications, HCG was already achieving them. Time after time, HCG's groundbreaking visions have become realities. HCG is charged not only with meeting current'trends, but also with anticipating and shaping the future.

EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY

Every HCG product goes through a regimen of no fewer than a dozen different performance tests before they are launched to the general public. Every valve, fitting and coupling has been customized for precision fit and optimum performance. Trapways are 100% glazed for efficiency unrivaled within the industry. In addition, HCG fixtures feature sophisticated Super Siphonic Technology, a revolutionary trapway and hydraulic design that quietly and efficiently clears wastes with powerful siphonic force. Precise bathroom fittings to ensure peerless durability is something HCG takes seriously. The impressive Fluidmaster installed in water closet tanks secures over a million leak-free flushes.
Quality is a detail HCG takes seriously; it is more than a concept. Quality is a commitment to staying true to an ideal. For excellence in design and technology, HCG has received the prestigious Philippine Standard (PS), American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and Korean Standard (KS) Certifications. HCG products and processes have been awarded impressive ISO Certificates in 9001:2000.

ANSI
ISO 9001:2000

CONTINUOUS INNOVATION

InnoGlaze
anti-bacteria & anti-bacteria

HCG is one of the first manufacturers to adopt the NANO-SIZE FORMULATED GLAZE APPLICATION. With HCG's proprietary INNOGLAZE, a benign technology to inhibit the growth of harmful bacteria, you and your family are protected from most types of dirt. The incorporation of antibacterial and antimicrobial technology into products is not merely desirable, but absolutely essential.

DESIGN

In 1997, Italian Nilo Gioacchini became HCG's instrumental designer. With twenty years of award-winning bathroom fixture design under his belt, Gioacchini translated his extraordinary devotion to detail and celebration of artistic expression into the fluid lines of Legato Series. An integral component of the HCG Industrial Design Team, he has developed some of the most contemporary, enduring products of the day. U2 King and Queen, the Series inspired by the beauty of the human form is now being introduced to the market. With the U2 Fluidmater Tank Fitting, we guarantee over a million leak-free flushes.

U2

WORLD-CLASS PERFORMANCE

We are as proud of our state-of- the-art production facilities as we are of our dedicated employees steadily searching consummated offerings and services to customers. In fact, the HCG plant in Dasmariñas, Cavite is the most productive sanitary ware plant in the country with the most number of employees. In the next few years, HCG-Philippines aims to generate additional jobs for more Filipinos.

LEGEND

The reliable craftsmanship of HCG's diligent employees is instrumental to the tremendous increase in domestic and export sales output. On the one hand, domestic sales of P60Million during HCG's first full year of operations vaulted almost six times at P360 million through to end of 2002. On the other hand, HCG's export sales registered an average of 24% annual growth.

HCG exports to 20 countries

Total exports of HCG-Philippines amounted to P1.1billion as of end of 2002. Today, HCG products manufactured in the Philippines are very well accepted in 20 countries worldwide.

HCG and SOCIETY

In 1999, HCG took part in the advocacy program of the Jimmy Carter Habitat for Humanity. Recently, HCG donated sanitary wares to Humayao Elementary School and Langkaan Elementary School, both located in Dasmariñas, Cavite. In addition, sponsoring sanitary wares for the BANTAY BATA's CHILDREN'S VILLAGE PROJECT in Bulacan provides HCG employees a sense of fulfillment without equal. These sorts of endeavors are something very important to all of us. They are our source of happiness and inspiration to continue improving our operations.

Bathroom Beautiful HCG

Book on teen thoughts launched

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Weinstein

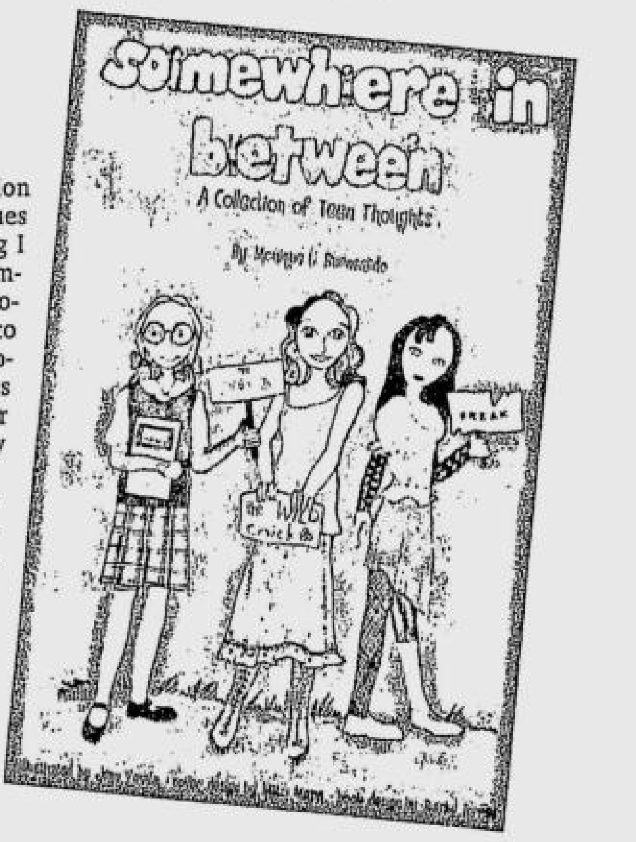
MONIQUE Buensalido

IT WAS a double weekend launch and book signing of the latest book for teens, "Somewhere in Between," a collection of teen thoughts by Monique L. Buensalido, a freshman from the Ateneo de Manila University.

Monique, who just turned 18 recently, chose 18 of her favorite essays that have been published in her newspaper column, "Youthspeak." Some of her interesting topics which span her seven years being a teenager include: "30 Things To Do Before You Grow Up," "The Generation Gap," "What I Heard About Cliques And Friendships" and "Everything I Learned in Life I Learned in Chemistry." As Monique says in her introduction, "This book isn't meant to show how confused teenagers today are, but to prove that even as we are learning how to live our lives on our own, we are already able to bring the juice out of life."

At the launch, Letty Cid, marketing manager of National, announced the search for a name for the bookstore's young reader's section, in response to a growing market of young book lovers.

"Somewhere in Between" is available at National Bookstore and Powerbooks for P250.



KAMAYAN
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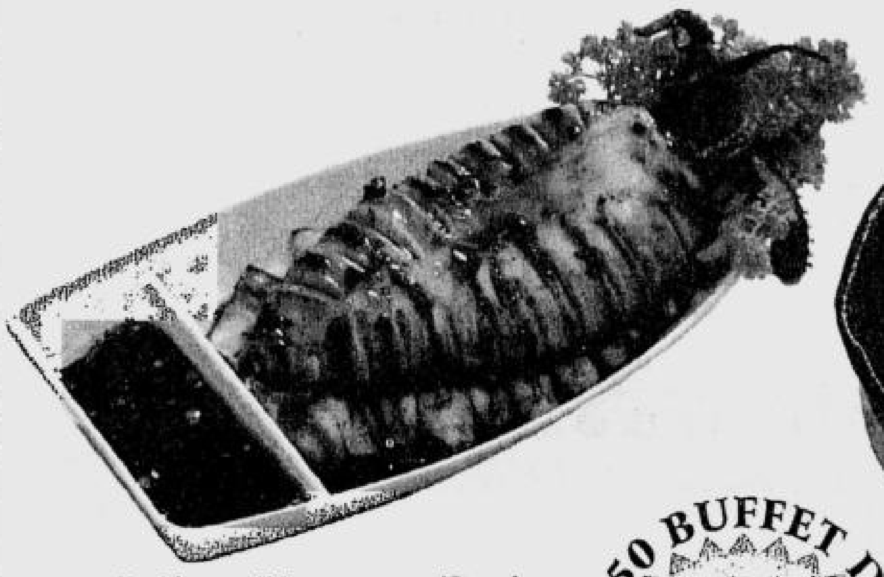
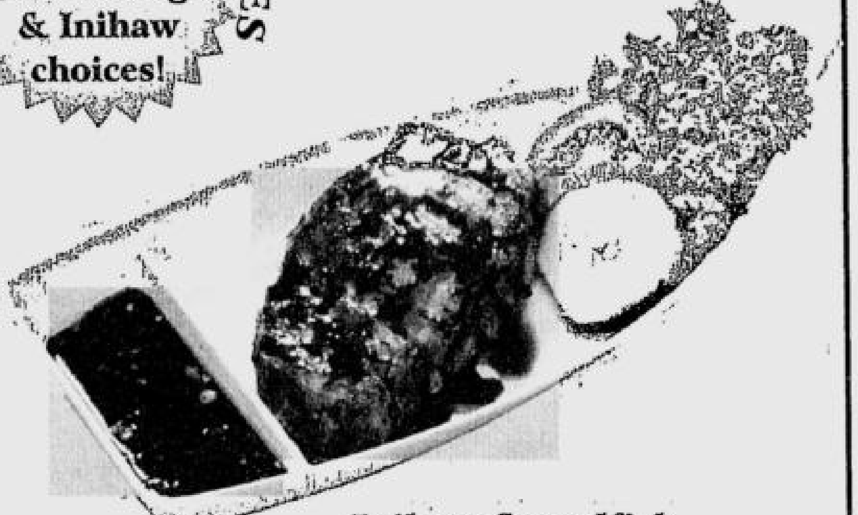
SIZZLING & INIHAW
You Can Order Sa Buffet

OVER 50 BUFFET DISHES
Includes an array of Sizzling & Inihaw choices!


Inihaw Kamayan Pusit

Sizzling Kamayan Sisig

Sizzling Salmon Belly


Inihaw Swordfish

₱275
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West Avenue 413-6359 · 413-6360
Alabang Town Center 807-5825 · 807-5826

Lira sets poetry workshop

THE LINANGAN sa Imahen, Retorika, at Anyo (LIRA), a group of poets writing in Filipino, has a new set of officers: Edgar Calabia Samar (president), Ronald Atilano (vice president), Anna Trisha Monica Osorio (secretary), Jeffrey Espiritu (treasurer), and Beverly Siy (PRO).

LIRA invites young writers to join this year's workshop that will run from July 2003 up to March 2004. Workshop director is National Artist Virgilio S. Almario.

Applicants must submit at least five poems in Filipino (typed double spaced on regular size bond paper), a brief bionote (including contact number, address, and email) and 1x1 ID picture to: Linangan sa Imahen, Retorika at Anyo c/o Edgar C. Samar, Kagawaran ng Filipino, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City 1101; or Linangan sa Imahen, Retorika at Anyo c/o Vim Nadera, director of the UP-Institute of Creative Writing, 2/F Bulwagang Rizal UP Diliman, Quezon City 1101.

E-mail esamar at ateneo dot edu for inquiries.

The houses we inhabit

From page F1

way Tiempo handles certain conventional elements of the genre. Many crucial revelations are not shown but merely reported by secondary characters in the manner of classical Greek tragedy. There is less urgency to the solving of the mystery than there is to Acuña attending to the day-to-day professional and domestic concerns of a university professor awaiting the birth of his first child. There is no grand unmasking of the villain (who in this novel is portrayed sympathetically), with the labored exegesis by a flamboyant, eccentric sleuth.

Here, the detective is a mild-mannered, almost boring, professor steeped in the predictable laws of the physical world, and thereby complacent in the knowledge that what goes up must come down, sooner or later. There are a few scenes of action and suspense, a confrontation with the murderer on a storm-tossed motorboat in the seas between Negros and Cebu. The crime itself is a flash of violence made shocking by its suddenness and the brutal simplicity of its rendering. The reasons for the crime are deep and complicated, but are revealed matter-of-factly, as though they were beside the point.

Of fathers and sons

On the whole, Tiempo is not interested in convention or reinvention. This is a story about fathers and sons, succession and permanence, and lasting legacies, set against the easy, comforting atmosphere of Dumaguete and its neighboring towns. It only happens to be incited by a murder. The city's smallness and the familiarity of its inhabitants with each other make their reactions to the crime, and their emotional involvement in it, plausible. This is a place where everyone knows everyone else, and it is still possible to genuinely care for someone outside of one's immediate family and circle of friends.

Tiempo captures both the flavor and the relaxed pace of the city in the rhythms of her dialogue as well as in the leaps of time that occur: A week, a month passes without comment in between sections, but the characters—literate, articulate, and sensitive as they are—remain thoroughly immersed in the complications of the case.

"The Builder" follows Acuña as he puzzles over the murder, and occasionally flashes back to his peripatetic childhood, growing up as the son of a government auditor who must constantly relocate to different parts of the Philippines because of his work. The fragments of Acuña's memory center on houses that he has lived in. The building of his own first home as a patriarch provides the framing plotline for the novel.

Acuña is obviously a man in search of permanence, of rootedness, and who manages to get it, by the luck of his position and background. His ordered life, grounded in an urbanized, "civilized" community, contrasts with the uncertainty of indigenous tribal claims over ancestral lands, one of the core issues surrounding the killing.

Tableau of permanence

The novel begins with an image of cozy domesticity—Acuña's father playing a game of "Capitals" with his brood at twilight on the porch of their rented home—and ends with a tableau of permanence: Acuña, now grown up, in his own newly-built home with his own wife and son.

Houses as physical structures are prominent motifs. In the novel, they are constructed, moved into, lived in, or visited, blown away by wind, burned down. The sense of belonging that comes with ownership is a key driving emotion here, but there are also intimations of the darker aspects of such a structure.

Legitimate and illegitimate children, and the places where they find their respective freedoms and happinesses, are set against each other, indicating that the houses we inhabit are, at best, only symbols. Paolo Cortobuena, heir to the Cortobuena Institute of Science and Technology, finds a father figure outside the home in Acuña. The murder victim, Valeria Bituan-Uy, although living a comfortable life, is beset by domestic problems arising from her father's misbehavior and lives in what appears to be a distant, sterile home environment.

And yet, one cannot do without the comfort and security of a physical structure. Flashbacks show the distress of Acuña's friend when his home is threatened by fire, Acuña's own unease at spending the night at a relative's house, and at one point a secondary character suggests that a person not associated with a house is akin to a wandering spirit.

It is this tension that drives Acuña and brings "The Builder" to its leisurely, inevitable epilogue. What goes up must come down indeed, the author seems to affirm, even when we don't always want it to. Still, the novel's hopeful ending hints that although Acuña has only begun taking root for his family, he is better equipped by having seen and felt the differences between physical and metaphysical homes.

A life without foundations, Tiempo suggests, is a life without order. In this novel the restoration of order lies not in the punishing of the murderer, but in the building of foundations. Those who take firm root and allow others to prosper in their shade are honorable, if only because they have cleared a space in which things greater than they will ever be can be allowed to happen.

PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF TELECOMMUNICATION OPERATORS

A new beginning ... A new direction

Messages

MY WARMEST greetings to the members and officers of the Philippine Chamber of Telecommunication Operators as you celebrate your organization's launching. Over the years, the members of the PCTO have contributed to the advancement of commerce in the Philippines by developing the local telecommunications industry. Moreover, with the rapid and mounting global telecommunications industry, the PCTO has maintained its commitment in the improvement of the local business. This event manifests your strengthened efforts to improve effectiveness and capability to adapt to the fast changing technological advances in the telecommunications industry. The Department of Transportation and Communications recognizes your efforts in this endeavor that advocates your unity and solidarity as guiding factors and principles in the field of telecommunications, as well as in serving the public. In behalf of the DOTC, I share your optimism for a meaningful and fruitful celebration. May your organization continue to play a vital part in the development of telecommunications in the country. *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

Hon. Leandro R. Mendoza
Secretary
Department of Transportation and Communications

CONGRATULATIONS to the Philippine Chamber of Telecommunication Operators on the formation of their new organization. We witness another milestone in Philippine telecommunications with this gathering of the leading telecoms operators in the country, who will be working together towards the development of their industry. The organization will not only perform a distinct service for the country, but will also provide a venue for making its members stronger both as individuals and as a group. I commend the PCTO for their commitment to the continued progress of Philippine telecommunications.

Hon. Armi Jane R. Borje
Commissioner
National Telecommunications Commission

IT IS with distinct honor that we announce the emergence of the Philippine Chamber of Telecommunication Operators, a new and forward-looking organization of telecoms operators. Its members are undoubtedly the best of the best in the telecommunications industry, having proven themselves many times over through valuable contributions that helped shape the Philippine telecoms landscape. Together, I am confident that our union will rise up to any challenge to fulfill our goal of making a positive impact in terms of nation-building and developing the telecoms industry. To all my fellow members whose combined efforts have made the PCTO possible, congratulations for a job very well done.

Epitacio R. Marquez
Chairman and President
Philippine Chamber of Telecommunication Operators

PCTO PAYS COURTESY CALL TO THE NTC
The officers and directors of the PCTO recently made a courtesy call at the National Telecommunications Commission. Welcoming their guests from PCTO were NTC Commissioner Armi Jane Borje (center, seated), and Deputy Commissioners Jorge Sarmiento (2nd from left, seated) and Kathleen Heceta (2nd from right, seated). Representing the PCTO were PCTO Chairman and President Epitacio Marquez (extreme left, seated), Rodolfo Salalima (extreme right, seated), (from left, standing) William Pamintuan, Rene Atienza, Alfredo Carrera, Michael de los Reyes, Froilan Castelo, Lon Ongkingco, Ernesto Reyes, Albert Tuason and Jose Mari Lagdameo. Not in photo are Gary Olivar, Filomena Veto, Enrico de los Reyes, Rogelio Quevedo, Ma. Dolores Syquia-Santos and Fernan Rimando.

THE LARGEST and most aggressive world-class carriers in the country have come together. They have one goal - to form a new and dynamic organization that will serve as the voice of the local telecommunications industry.

Tomorrow, July 22, is the realization of that vision. With the birth of the Philippine Chamber of Telecommunication Operators, Inc. (PCTO), there will now be an independent forum for the development and improvement of the telecommunications industry on matters concerning national and international interest.

PCTO is not just another non-stock, non-profit corporation. It brings with it a promise of a new beginning, a new leadership that would shape the direction of this highly dynamic sector.

Hand in hand with the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and other government agencies, PCTO intends to work in the formulation, implementation and updating of government policies, rules and regulations on telecommunications.

So far, the Philippine telephone liberalization policy has already resulted in numerous benefits for the subscribers such as higher telephone density rate, greater variety of services, and to some extent reduced cost. However, PCTO believes that it can do so much more.

As a vehicle towards the development of the latest telecommunications technologies, PCTO expects to lift the levels of service standards of its members and secure the nation's rightful place in the global market. It believes that access to advanced telecommunications services at reasonable prices is essential to the country's economic and industrial development. This will in turn, help uplift the living conditions of the Filipino people.

PCTO also hopes to establish vital communications linkages among different regions of the country and the world as well as foster closer relations, understanding and cooperation among the various telecommunications corporations, associations and societies in the Philippines.

At present, the Philippine telecommunications sector is predominantly operated by private companies which handle the country's need for both voice and data. PCTO members alone are responsible for the installation of almost 7 million landlines and for providing over 16 million people access to cellular phone service.

PCTO members are: Bayan Telecommunications, Inc. (BayanTel), Capitol Wireless, Inc. (Capwire), Digital Telecommunications Philippines, Inc. (Digitel), Eastern Telecommunications Philippines, Inc. (Eastern Telecom), Express Telecommunication Co., Inc. (Extelcom), Globe Telecom, Inc. (Globe Telecom), Isla Communications Co., Inc. (Islacom), Philippine Association of Private Telephone Companies (Paptelco), Philippine Global Communications, Inc. (Philcom), Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), Philippine Telegraph & Telephone Co. (PT&T), Pilipino Telephone Corp. (Piltel), Smart Communications Co., Inc. (Smart), and Telecommunications Technologies Philippines, Inc. (TTPI).

With its 14 founding members working together, PCTO ushers in a new era in the telecommunications industry where operators continue to flourish in a healthy, competitive environment.

DIRECTORS

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CFO
BayanTel

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SVP, Legal, Intercarrier and HR Services
Digitel

FERNAN A. RIMANDO
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SVP, Corporate Strategy, Carrier Business and Network Operations
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ALBERT L. TUASON
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MICHAEL LESLIE D. DE LOS REYES
Corporate Secretary

PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF TELECOMMUNICATION OPERATORS MEMBERS

Bayan Telecommunications, Inc.-BayanTel is a facilities-based, data services and fixed-line telecommunications provider. It is one of the leading providers of data and communication services in the country. BayanTel, formerly known as International Communications Corporation (ICC), was incorporated in April 18, 1961. BayanTel is majority owned by Benpres Holdings Corporation (Benpres) of the Lopezes.
www.bayantel.com.ph

Capitol Wireless, Inc.-From its humble beginnings as a domestic telegraph carrier in 1962, Capitol Wireless Inc. (Capwire) has gone a long way to become an internationally recognized premier communication company in the Philippines. With four decades of experience in providing clear, fast, reliable and customized communication solutions, Capwire celebrates its commitment to people.
www.capwire.com

Digital Telecommunications Philippines, Inc.-Established in 1987, Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc. (Digitel) is majority-owned by JG Summit Holdings Inc., one of the largest and most diversified conglomerates in the Philippines. Digitel continues to be the second largest provider of wirelines in the country in terms of working lines. In 2003 Digitel's mobile phone service was launched under the brand name Sun Cellular.

Eastern Telecommunications Philippines, Inc.-Eastern Telecom has been in the telecommunications business for 120 years. Through the years, Eastern Telecom has been a trailblazer and has now evolved into a full-service company and a leading provider of a wide range of telecommunications services from the regular landline to data and internet including the latest in broadband technology.
www.etpi.com.ph

Express Telecommunication Co., Inc.-Express Telecom was established in December 1988 to provide cellular mobile phone service. It is a joint venture of Marifil Holdings owned by BayanTel, the telecommunications arm of Benpres, Millicom International Cellular (MIC), and Mayon Holdings, Inc. whose shareholders also own GMA Network.
www.extelcom.com

Globe Telecom, Inc.-Since 1993 when Globe Telecom, Inc. (Globe) engaged in the telephone business, it has emerged to be among the dominant telecommunications providers in the Philippines today. It continues to enjoy strong shareholder support from Ayala Corporation and Singapore Telecom International, which, in turn, has led to a strong business presence as a full-service telecommunications company in the country today.
www.globe.com.ph

Isla Communications Company, Inc. -Islacom, a fully-owned subsidiary of Globe Telecom, offers wireless and wireline domestic and international services. Islacom was incorporated on June 15, 1990. On September 12, 2001, Islacom launched Touch Mobile, a prepaid cellular service. Islacom has also entered into a licensing agreement with Globe whereby Islacom adopted the Globelines brand for its landline service.

Philippine Association of Private Telephone Companies -Organized in 1976, Paptelco is the umbrella organization of over 50 private telephone companies throughout the country. It is an industry body of local exchange carriers in the Philippines that provides basic local telephone service in the countryside.
www.paptelco.com.ph

Philippine Global Communications, Inc.- Philcom celebrates its 80th year in the industry by reaffirming its commitment to deliver innovative and cost-effective products and services to its customers. Since its inception in 1924, PhilCom (then known as Radio Corporation of America) has demonstrated the dynamism needed to respond to the constantly changing market place.
www.philcom.com

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.-In the field of Philippine telecommunications, PLDT is the country's leader offering the largest and most diversified range of products and services across the country's most extensive fiber optic backbone and fixed line, cellular and satellite networks. *www.pldt.com.ph*

Philippine Telegraph and Telephone Company-For 37 years now, PT&T continues to be one of the dominant domestic corporate entities. Incorporated in 1962, PT&T is now moving to strategically position itself as a nationwide video, interactive and inter-carrier service provider.
www.ptt.com.ph

Pilipino Telephone Corp. - Piltel is one of the country's leading mobile phone service provider offering the Talk 'N Text prepaid cellular phone brand. It also operates a regional fixed line network. Piltel, which is 45% owned by PLDT, is a sister company of Smart, depending upon it for network access, maintenance, customer services, and administrative support.

Smart Communications, Inc.-Smart is among the Philippines' leading wireless services providers. Smart combines its digital GSM technology and its satellite telephony for unparalleled coverage and connectivity. Smart is a wholly-owned subsidiary of PLDT.
www.smart.com.ph

Telecommunications Technologies of the Philippines -TTPI is a subsidiary of Eastern Telecom, providing high quality local telephone, inter-exchange, and internet services.

PCTO
INDUCTION OF OFFICERS

The Manila Polo Club, Main Lounge
22 July 2003, 6:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

Invocation

Welcome Message

Introduction
of Keynote Speaker

Keynote Address
HON. LEANDRO R. MENDOZA
Secretary
Department of Transportation and Communications

Induction of Officers
and Directors

Message
EPITACIO R. MARQUEZ
PCTO Chairman and President

Awarding of Token
of Appreciation to
HON. LEANDRO R. MENDOZA

Closing Remarks

At last, an IDD rate you can use and abuse.

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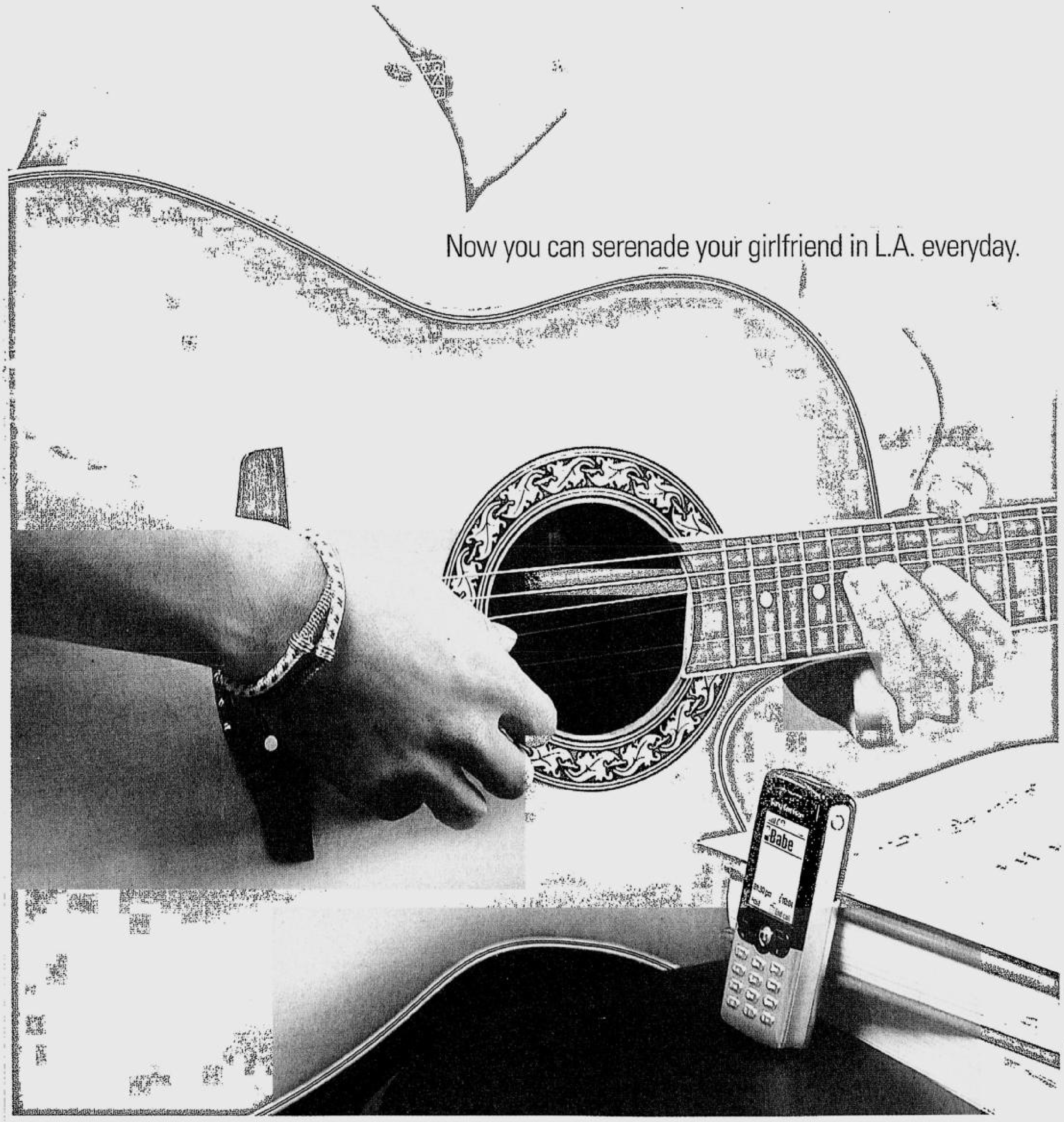

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IDD

Only an IDD rate this low lets you sing sweet nothings to your loved one everyday from far away.

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The IDD rate you can use and abuse.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2012 Series of 2003

Marie Curie
Physicist
Worked tirelessly and non-stop to discover the benefits of Radium and Polonium.

Honey Balmores-De Vera
Senior Account Manager
Works tirelessly and non-stop to discover and meet client's needs and demands.

GlobeQUEST

Solutions that mean business

A passion for discovery. This is what drives the people behind GlobeQUEST. This explains why we're passionate about finding the right network solution to make your business work.

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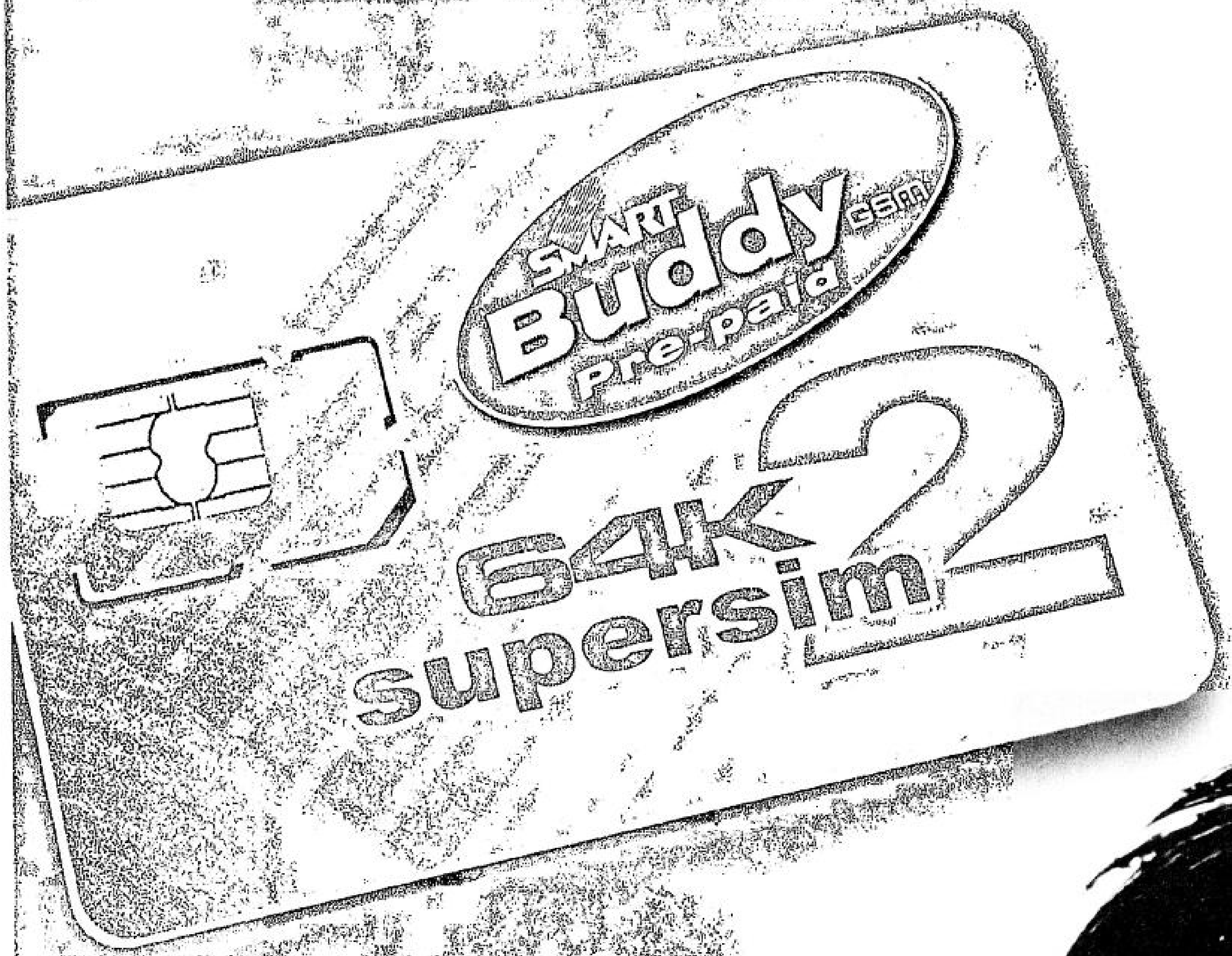

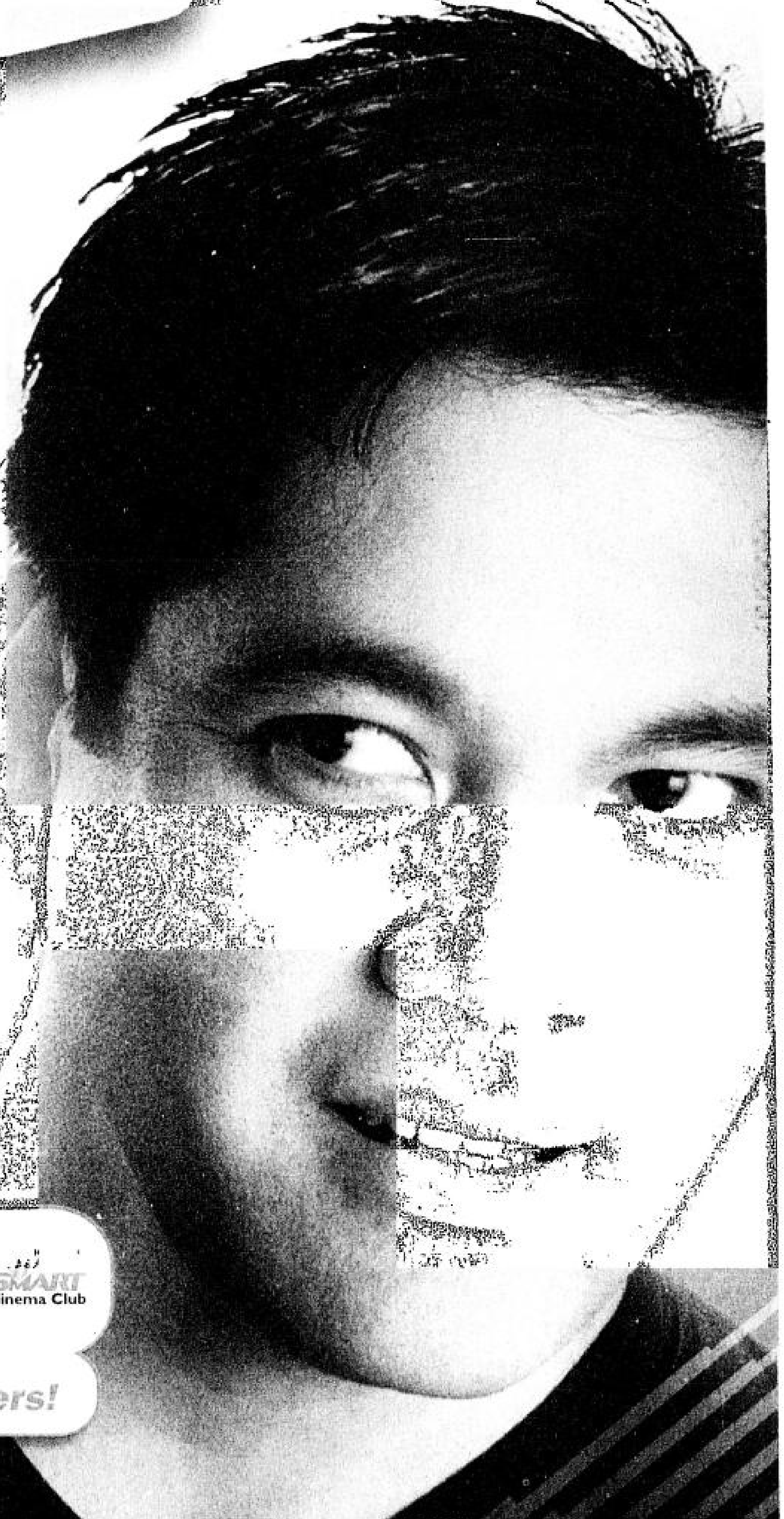

Experience the increased power, the expanded memory and the innovative features of the new SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2!

- Store up to 500 phone numbers!
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- Password Protection for phonebook & inbox!
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For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, send a text message to 888 (₱1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.